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Governor names 3 to Arts Council, CPA board. PAGE 2

DPS chief wants Garapan designated as safe zone for tourists, residents. PAGE 3

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, right, reviews his notes prior to a joint leadership meeting with lawmakers and other officials yesterday afternoon on Capital Hill to brainstorm on revenue-generating measures that will help prolong the NMI Retirement Fund's lifespan beyond March 2014. ➤

AMONG TOP REVENUE-GENERATING PROPOSALS ON TABLE

'Casino, offshore banking, tax enforcements'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Legalizing casino gaming on Saipan, establishing an offshore banking industry similar to those in the Caribbean islands but with Asian investors as main markets, and tighter enforcement of CNMI tax laws are among the revenue-generating ideas that are on the table to help fund the NMI Retirement Fund and other public services.

» Inos: More than $10M for Fund in FY 2014 budget

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, at the same time, said yesterday his proposed fiscal year 2014 budget will appropriate to the Fund "more than" $10 million, which is the amount set aside under the current year budget.

Inos, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, members of the 18th Legislature and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) held a meeting on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon to brainstorm on revenue-generating ideas.

Legalizing casino operations on Saipan has been a recurring proposal since the 17th Legislature but its proponents are not giving up on the idea, considering the immediate need to prolong the Fund's lifespan beyond March 2014.

House Floor Leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday he will pre-file a House bill on Saipan casino operations.

The delegate, for his part, suggested

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Inos administration not pursuing $80M ice-breaking ferry

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday his administration is not pursuing an $80-million ice-breaking ferry from Alaska, an idea first proposed during the Fitial administration and is being pushed anew by concerned citizen Ambrose Bennett.

Inos said even if the ice-breaking vessel is given free of charge, there would still be costs associated with bringing the

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Inos administration said it is not interested in the M/V *Susitna*, an $80-million ice-breaking hybrid ferry from Alaska. ➤

Tougher sanctions against tourism crimes, drug trafficking pushed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Judiciary and Government Operations Committee chair Cris Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan) introduced a bill imposing a jail time of five to 25 years for drug trafficking. Reps. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) and Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) also pushed for two separate bills seeking stiffer penalties for crimes against tourists and those that occur within 1,000 feet of tourist sites.

Leon Guerrero's House Bill 18-38, now under review by the JGO panel, says a drug trafficking sentence should be commensurate with whether or not the crime was committed by a first offender or

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Who will be the 2013 NCAA Men's Basketball champion?

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INSIDE

NATION

Hillary Rodham Clinton stayed on safe political ground Tuesday.

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WORLD

A late night outing turned into a six-hour-long nightmare after an American woman was gang raped and beaten.

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LIFE & STYLE

Young music fans may wonder why there's still a fuss over dad's, or grandpa's, favorite band.

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Local

Governor names 3 to Arts Council, CPA board

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos nominated yesterday former senator Kiyu P. Villagomez to serve on the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors, and appointed Gloriana M. Teuira and Florine M. Hofschneider to become members of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture.

Villagomez's appointment to the CPA board to represent Saipan requires the Senate's advice and consent. If confirmed, he will serve a four-year term which will expire on March 28, 2017.

"The Lt. Governor and I are confident that your many years of service in our government will be an asset to this Board," the governor told Villagomez. So far, the governor declined the courtesy resignations of CPA board members Joe Lifoifoi and Barrie Toves.

The governor's appointments of Teuria and Hofschneider to the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, meanwhile, do not require Senate confirmation.

Teuria, representing the Carolinian community, will serve the unexpired term of Vivian W. Odoshi, which will expire on March 4, 2014.

Hofschneider, representing Tinian, will serve the unexpired term of Concepcion P. Aldan, expiring on June 21, 2013.

"The Lt. Governor and I have been informed of the important work before the council and have every confidence that you will consistently devote your time and efforts to represent the interest of the community. Your willingness to serve our people is most appreciated," the governor said in separate letters to Teuria and Hofschneider.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider administer the oath of office to 24 new litter control apprehending officers during a ceremony Tuesday at the Governor's office conference room in Capital Hill.

24 litter control officers sworn in

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Planning on discarding your trash just about anywhere? Think again, as a new generation of litter control apprehending officers is now ready to issue citations to violators.

On Tuesday, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider administered the oath of office to 24 officers who successfully completed the Litter Control Apprehending Officer certification course for the Litter Control Act.

Each of the newly certified officers was presented with a certificate of completion, a government-issued identification, and a citation book, authorizing them to cite persons who are caught littering.

The Litter Control program is a multi-agency collaboration led by the Coastal Resources Management Office along with other partnering agencies, namely the Division of Environmental Quality, Department of Public safety, and the Office of the Attorney General.

The program is a product of the government-initiated Tourism Task Force with the primary goal of enhancing the natural beauty of the island which continues to experience an upswing in the tourism industry.

Hofschneider congratulated the new officers during the ceremony that coincided with the proclamation signing for Environmental Awareness Month this April and CNMI Earth Day on April 22.

» Group will be part of govt-initiated tourism task force

He reminded the officers of their responsibilities as part of the government's larger effort to promote and encourage a more responsible and well-maintained environment.

"These new officers have a very important role in our community now. We are at a very exciting time in our history when our tourism industry is posting very encouraging figures. We all need to work together to keep our islands pristine and beautiful," said Hofschneider.

The island has had apprehending officers. For several years now, these officers have stopped cracking down on littering violators, saying that the fines for these violators are steep considering the economic downturn in the CNMI.

DEQ director Frank Rabauliman said in an interview that they tried to address this issue through a bill that would amend the law by lowering down the fines.

"Unfortunately and for whatever reason we're not aware of, it continues to linger in the Legislature. But the fact that there's this new effort to beautify the island, we've come to a point where we said let's not argue the point with the legislation because we have to enforce what's in the law," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rabauliman said the new apprehending officers are tasked to go out there and cite violators.

"The citations end up ultimately in the courts and the violators are answerable to the courts," he added.

Rabauliman noted that the enforcement of the anti-littering law supports efforts to improve the island as a tourist destination as well as the "very commendable and noble work" by private businesses, civic groups, and other volunteers that conduct beach cleanups or adopt a place.

"We need to be out there to do the enforcement and that's what we're doing," he said, adding that more individuals are expected to undergo the training and become certified litter control apprehending officers themselves.

The director urged the new officers to enforce what is stipulated by law. "If that means issuing a citation, issue a citation and let the courts deal with whatever the fine may be."

Rabauliman also disclosed that involved agencies also posted anti-littering signs throughout the island as part of their public outreach to raise awareness about the litter control program.

OFFICIAL PHOTOS HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Office of the Governor employee Ed Cabrera, left, and press secretary Angel A. Demapan, show yesterday the framed official photos of Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider that will be hanged on the wall of the governor's office building on Capital Hill, some six weeks since the Inos administration was sworn into office.

Corporation releases one-month housing allowance

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Eligible employees of the Commonwealth Health Center received last Tuesday their housing benefit, representing their allowance for August 2012.

Corporation's CEO Juan N. Babauta and acting chief financial officer Cora Ada confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the housing checks were received by staff.

The housing allowance is part of the hospital's incentive package to entice off-island medical providers to work in the CNMI.

The benefit is $800 per month for those with families, while single employees receive $600 a month. Due to budget constraints, this perk has been delayed for many months and was eliminated due to the corporation's scarce resources.

This means that for employees whose contracts were automatically renewed this year with the same terms and conditions in their original employment agreement, the unpaid housing benefit due them is eight months—from September 2012 through April 2013.

Corporation officials had earlier disclosed that many employees have signed a new contract which incorporates salary adjustments to cover a portion of their housing benefit. Among these employees are the physicians who were recruited outside the CNMI.

Ada disclosed that the corporation disbursed over a $100,000 worth of housing checks on Tuesday as payment for the August benefit.

In a recent report to the CHCC board, COO Esther Muna disclosed that there are 140 employees who are still receiving housing benefit from the corporation for August while for September 2012, records show that 137 personnel are due to receive them.

Ada told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the August payment was made possible by improving collections of the hospital. She disclosed that housing payment for September 2012 may probably be issued within the month. Housing benefit due for September is $96,000.

"We're trying to catch up. We owe it to them and as soon as we have ways and means to do it… we will do so," Babauta assured employees yesterday.

A nurse for over 15 years at CHC was relieved yesterday upon receiving the much-awaited benefit. The employee disclosed that the one-month check will help stabilize their budget for the month.

"This (check) is a great help. I am thankful…because we're seeing the corporation's efforts in fulfilling its promise to pay—little by little—its obligation to us," said the employee.

Other employees interviewed yesterday expressed optimism on the issuance of the September check.

DPS chief wants Garapan designated as safe zone for tourists, residents

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero said yesterday that he want to see the Garapan revitalization district a designated safe zone for tourists and residents.

Deleon Guerrero said under the Tourism Oriented Policing Section, DPS will provide quality public safety services at the revitalization district so tourists and residents alike can walk freely and not having fear of being robbed, burglarized, or victimized by other forms of crimes.

"I felt that community policing was one of the things that needs to be implemented as opposed to the traditional of doing patrol," said the commissioner during his speech before the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan's SandCastle.

Deleon Guerrero

Protection for visitors and residents was among the many DPS projects or programs that Deleon Guerrero discussed before members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Deleon Guerrero said under TOPS, one of the projects that they have undertaken was to reactivate the bike patrol program within the Garapan hotel district.

He said they are still in the early development phase of the project, but that they are very happy to see the support provided by Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, DFS Saipan Limited president Marian Aldan-Pierce, businesses, and other government agencies.

The commissioner noted that burglary and theft is number one form of crimes in the CNMI.

He said DPS used to have the Thief Apprehension Select Coalition that was cracking down those burglars and robbers.

Deleon Guerrero disclosed that last week, he put the necessary order and policy in place to make TASC a permanent unit within the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau.

"That in essence will be handling the business of investigating burglary, theft, and robbery cases," he said.

Inos won't ask NMC, CHCC boards to tender resignations

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos will not ask board members of the Northern Marianas College Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to tender their courtesy resignations, despite the spate of controversies currently plaguing the two autonomous agencies.

Press secretary Angel A. Demapan confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that despite the administration's concern on the accreditation status of the only community college on island, the governor will not be asking the courtesy resignation of the regents.

NMC's accreditation is in its most severe sanction of show-cause due to recurring and unresolved deficiencies identified by the accreditation commission.

The institution has until Oct. 15 this year to justify why its accreditation should not be revoked. A decision whether it will reaffirm its full accreditation or not will be known after the commission's assembly in January 2014.

"For the NMC Board of Regents, it's a slightly different situation. Governor Inos recognizes that the accreditation team had previously raised concerns about political influences on the affairs of NMC and its board," admitted Demapan.

In view of this, the press secretary said the governor feels that "any regent who wishes to resign out of courtesy should be left to freely make that decision."

The Board of Regents has seven voting members that include chair Juan T. Lizama, vice chair Elaine Hocog-Orilla, Malua Peter, Frank Rabauliman, William Torres, Andrew Orsini, and newly confirmed regent Michaela Sanchez.

The same decision was accorded by the governor to members of the CHCC board, which recently recommended to the governor the non-renewal of the contract of CEO Juan N. Babauta.

As an advisory board, CHCC trustees can only adopt such decision subject to the governor's approval. Voting members of the CHCC board include chair Joaquin Torres, vice chair Pedro Dela Cruz, Anthony Aguon, Roy Rios, director for medical affairs Sherlene Osman, Anthony Raho, and CEO Juan N. Babauta.

The board, in numerous occasions, has been vocal in its deep involvement with the operation of the Commonwealth Health Center—an issue that many described is a form of micromanagement.

To date, Demapan admitted that no courtesy resignations have been tendered and received by the new administration from both boards.

"The governor notes that courtesy resignations are resignations that shouldn't be asked for. These are resignations that board members typically tender as a courtesy to a new governor. Take for example the CPA and Zoning board members. They freely submitted their courtesy resignations, the governor did not ask for it," added Demapan.

'Two Fund laws in direct conflict of each other'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Two laws passed to help the NMI Retirement Fund are in direct conflict of each other, according to Sapuro J. Rayphand, a concerned retiree known for his vocal sentiments about the pension program.

Rayphand was alluding to Public Law 17-82 and Public Law 18-2, which both purport to allow the withdrawal of the DCP plan contributions from the Retirement Fund knowing fully well that it clashes with provisions of the CNMI Constitution Article III section 20. This section prohibits any act that would diminish or lower the pensions.

"It appears that the two statutory and constitutional laws are in direct conflict of each other (the P.L.17-82 and P.L. 18-2)… As I am sure you know, the CNMI Constitution is superior to any local statute and thus, these statutes cannot muster any CNMI Constitutional challenges," Rayphand told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

According to the retiree, the passage of both laws is questionable since the beginning.

"If we examine the reasons and the timing of the passage of the statutes, it would appear to be purely politically motivated, a move to get more votes by appeasing the worried and frustrated constituents before the impeding impeachment proceeding (which didn't happen because former governor Fitial resigned) and the bet for re-election for the legislators," he said.

Rayphand said that this thinly hidden legitimate concern for the retirees backfired because the voters have known for years that the NMI Retirement Fund has precipitously heading south, but the former governors and legislators, he said, deliberately and purposefully failed to do anything proactively to stop the bleeding.

"If the members of the CNMI Legislature, and the former governors were truly concerned about the CNMI financial woes, why didn't they address this very issue years ago?" he asked.

The retiree is doubtful that the new administration can immediately help the Fund from being depleted.

"Today, governor (Eloy) Inos and the current legislators may not be able to keep us afloat simply because there is very little money left. What has been done is perhaps too little too late…and so it is impossible to keep us afloat much longer than predicted by financial experts. When this happens, then you can only imagine the hardships we will experience," added Rayphand. The Fund is earlier predicted to last only up to March 2014 due to its depleting resources.

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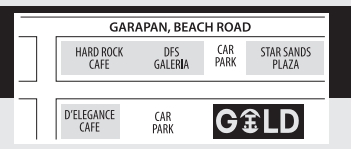

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS Class of 1983 meeting

The Marianas High School Class of 1983 would like to invite everyone to join us on our general meeting on Friday, April 26, at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe/Civic Center at 7pm.

For more information or inquiry, please give a call to Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. ***(PR)***

MHS allowing late orders of graduation items

Marianas High School is now allowing late orders for graduation items (cap, gown, tassel, diploma, and cover) until April 5, 2013, 1pm. Those interested must pay at least half of the total amount they are ordering. MHS said this is the last and final order for all graduation materials. Orders will be placed on April 5, 2013, but there is no guarantee that the items will arrive on time.

If you have any questions, call the Main Office at 237-3206. ***(PR)***

Brass Studio Recital at UOG April 7

University of Guam Fine Arts faculty will be performing a Brass Studio Recital on Sunday, April 7 at 3PM in the UOG Fine Arts Theater. Admission is free and open to the public.

The recital will feature the Horn Quartet of the Guam Symphony, which is directed by UOG's own Dr. Stephen Bednarzyk and the UOG Low Brass Trio, which includes Bob Schlub on French horn, Troy McVey on tuba and Jeffrey Meyer on tuba. The trio will be accompanied by Stephen Bednarzyk on piano.

For more information, contact Dr. Jeffrey Meyer at jmeyer@uguam.uog.edu. ***(PR)***

Bereaved Families Support Group meeting today

A group that is in the process of forming a Compassionate Friends chapter in Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting today, April 4, from 6pm to 7:30 pm in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

We offer understanding and hope to bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age, and from any cause. We provide a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences, while respecting and supporting each other, and listening. We have "been there." We do not espouse any specific religious or philosophical ideology. There is no "right way" to grieve, and family members are welcome to come to share or just to listen.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. Today more than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and Guam offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents and other family members during the natural grieving process after a child has died.

For more information, call Jill Derickson at 287-5337 or e-mail jilld@pticom.com. To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. ***(PR)***

Åmot Måkpung Åmku' yan Åmot Tininu now available

The Inetnon Åmot yan Kutturan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Falúw says that ready-to-be-boiled, packaged Åmot Måkpung Åmku' yan Åmot Tininu is available at the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center at 1213 on Capitol Hill Road, across the Workforce Investment Agency and next to the CNMI Board of Parole Office. A $10 donation per package is accepted. The office hours are Monday to Friday, from 10am to 5pm. For more information, call 322-0278. ***(PR)***

UOG to host Marianas History Conference

The 2013 Marianas History Conference, "One Archipelago, Many Stories: Integrating Our Narratives," will be held in Guam on Aug. 30-31, 2013. Abstracts for papers and posters may be submitted at guampedia.com by April 3, 2013. The Guampedia website also accepts conference registration with an early registration fee of $25 or $10 for students with a valid ID. The number of registrants will be capped at 220. Late registration is $40.

For more information, visit www.guampedia.com/the-2nd-marianas-history-conference, or contact Dr. Anne Perez Hattori (ahattori@uguam.uog.edu) or Dr. Michael Clement (mclement@uguam.uog.edu). ***(UOG)***

Beetle may cause $11.8 million in damage to Fiji taro

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times/PIR)—The Biosecurity Authority of Fiji has warned that the country could face losses of up to FJ$21 million [US$11.8 million] in export earnings if the spread of dalo beetles is not arrested.

Authority acting chief executive officer, Waisiki Gonemaituba said FJ$21 million was the amount Fiji earned from dalo, or talo, exports but the dalo bug was putting these earnings at risk.

"As it stands the taro export is getting us an export value of more than FJ$21 million and the infestation by this taro beetle is affecting the potential exports from taro," Mr. Gonemaituba said.

"Our earnings could have gone over and above the FJ$21 million we are looking at. So that in itself, has affected our export potential."

Mr. Gonemaituba said the authority was working hard to ensure the beetles do not spread to other parts of Fiji.

"It has gone from the infested areas of the Central Division of Viti Levu across to Ovalau and Moturiki and now it has found its way to Gau Island.

"Gau was free from this pest just a while ago and now the incursion is there and we are aware of the fact that the extent of shipping going to major islands like Koro and Taveuni could transport these diseases through planting materials.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to our dynamic leader Melissa Palacios. Thank you for all your guidance, inspiration and support through the years. Wishing you luck, courage, and all the strength needed to continue your successful presence in the game of life. Happy birthday from your Head Start familia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hoping to have eternal happiness. Happy birthday to the best Mom in the world. Greetings coming from your loving son Ivan and Pops.

TOUGHER

From Page 1

a former convicted felon on his or her second, third or fourth drug-related offense.

At present, the minimum mandatory penalty for a first offense for trafficking the drug "ice" is 25 years without the possibility of suspension or parole.

Under Leon Guerrero's HB 18-38, a court will be allowed to sentence a first-time drug dealer anywhere from five years to 25 years, where parole eligibility starts only after serving the minimum term of five years.

The bill clarifies that the jail term is mandatory, and that the fine component of up to $10,000 or up to $20,000—depending on the number of offense—is in addition to the jail term as opposed to being an alternative to the mandatory term of incarceration.

Leon Guerrero, a former police officer, maintains severe penalties for those that repeat their crimes by committing a second or subsequent offense while providing wide latitude to courts.

For first offenders, the bill still mandates the court to sentence the offender to not less than five years without the possibility of any early release via parole.

However, it also maintains the 25-year possible sentence for cases that are egregious.

Under the bill amending 6 CMC 2141, the jail term of 25 years becomes mandatory only upon a second offense as opposed to a first offense.

The life imprisonment provision which applied to a second offense in the original law now becomes the applicable penalty for the third or subsequent offense.

Villagomez's HB 18-36, meanwhile, establishes higher mandatory sentences for crimes that occur within 1,000 feet of tourist sites and recreational areas.

It proposes a mandatory minimum jail term of not less than one-half of the maximum term provided for the charges or five years, whichever is greater, for those convicted of committing a crime within 1,000 feet of a tourist site such as a beach, monument, park, golf course, and other recreational areas.

Rep. Lorenzo Leon Guerrero's HB 18-40 also strengthens provisions regarding crimes against a tourist or the property of a tourist, and by establishing higher minimum mandatory sentences.

It says the minimum mandatory sentence will be increased to one-half the maximum term allowable under the law or five years, whichever is more, and shall not be suspended and without possibility of parole during this specific period.

"Over the years, there has been a rise (in the number) of crimes committed against tourists and property. Due to the increase (in) crimes, many tourists' perception of a safe and enjoyable CNMI has changed," Deleon Guerrero said in his bill, referred also to the JGO Committee for review.

FERRY

From Page 1

ferry boat named M/V *Susitna* to the CNMI, maintenance and operational costs, and dry-docking. Moreover, with the size and type of the 200-foot vessel the CNMI has to build terminals on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to accommodate it.

The *Susitna* would have traveled 4,500 miles to reach the CNMI from Alaska's Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

While the Inos administration is shutting the door on the *Susitna*, it is looking forward to a ferry boat feasibility study.

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority said earlier that if the study suggests the need for an interisland ferry boat system, COTA will take the lead in applying for discretionary and formula funds from the Federal Transit Authority for the requisition or construction of ferry boats and terminal facilities.

Alaska's Matanuska-Susitna Borough received only one bid to buy the $80-million ferry by Friday's deadline, and the bid is for $751,000. The borough doesn't have to accept the offer, however.

"For a boat nobody wants… that's worth more in scrap than what was bid for. If you sell the metal scrap, it's worth more than the $700,000-$800,000 right?" Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said.

Last year, Sablan expressed disappointment that the CNMI people only knew of the Commonwealth government's consideration of the $80-million ice-breaking ferry through U.S. mainland news instead of the then Fitial administration.

The *Susitna* was born out of a unique partnership between the U.S. Navy, which wanted a prototype for a fast military landing craft, and Alaska's Mat-Su Borough, which wanted an ice-breaking ferry to transport commuters across Knik Arm. But the ferry has never been put to work.

While the borough didn't pay to build the boat, as the owner, it is now responsible for bills averaging nearly $90,000 a month for dock fees, insurance, maintenance, and other expenses.

CASINO

From Page 1

tapping the Asian market in the establishment of offshore financial services on the islands. He cited, for example, putting up hedge fund firms that could provide quality jobs and at the same time bank on the growing Asian market. Sablan said so far, only Bridge Capital LLC is the only one of its kind operating in the CNMI.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) and the governor separately said this idea is worth considering.

"We're looking into drafting legislation that will allow establishing financial services here similar to those established in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, providing for tax incentives," Inos told reporters after meeting with lawmakers and the delegate.

He said offshore banking could be a "viable" industry in the CNMI.

"It's very viable in the Caribbean, and their clientele in the Caribbean is essentially European… Here we want to look at the Asian market—Chinese and Koreans," he added.

The term offshore banking and offshore financial centers have been generally associated with so-called tax haven jurisdictions that provide sound banking practices codified in laws and regulations guaranteeing confidentiality, low taxation, and security.

Inos also said "closing up some loopholes in existing tax statutes" or increased enforcement of CNMI tax laws will also be a big part.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) echoed this. Torres cited his newly-introduced Senate Bill 18-19, mandating the Department of Finance to establish a computerized data system that records and stores instantaneously business cash register transactions.

"While Finance will have to invest in this system, the cost will be outweighed by the amount of taxes we wouldn't be able to track otherwise," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

Senate Vice President Victor Hocog (R-Rota) said beefing up free trade zones will also help boost the economy.

FY 2014 budget

Yesterday afternoon's joint leadership meeting comes at a time when the administration is preparing to submit its fiscal year 2014 budget to the Legislature.

Inos said the revenue-generating bills' impacts on the economy will be in addition to the $114-million budget package that he is poised to submit to the Legislature by April 15 to April 20.

The governor and lawmakers repeatedly said yesterday that these revenue-generating measures are mainly to finance the Retirement Fund.

The speaker and House minority leader George Camacho (R-Saipan) said there will be two working groups created in the Legislature—one that focuses on revenue-generation and one on cutting government costs.

The governor said in about a week's time, there will be a follow-up meeting to determine which of the ideas presented yesterday will be introduced as bills for consideration.

Inos said the proposed FY 2014 budget will also contain the consolidation of government functions and privatization to cut costs, reduce redundancy, and improve efficiency.

These include merging the Department of Labor and the Workforce Investment Agency, allowing the Oleai Sports Complex to be managed by NMASA instead of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and privatizing parks maintenance and services.

4 Saipan firefighters join extensive exercise in Guam

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four firefighters from the Commonwealth recently went through a five-day extensive fire exercise with their counterparts in Guam.

Stanley Torres, 36th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire and Emergency Services assistant for training, disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that CNMI firefighters who received the special training in Guam include Lt. Jesse Mesa and firefighters Francis Manglona, John Mettao, and Clinton Ngiraked. All are employees of the CNMI Department of Public Safety.

The exercise was slated on March 25-29 and was hosted by the Andersen Fire and Emergency Services Airmen in Guam. This was the third time the Andersen Fire Department hosted and trained firefighters from the CNMI. The visit was at the request of the CNMI fire chiefs and the expense of their trip was funded by the local government.

Prior to this year's training, Guam has conducted fire exercises in the past which trainings specifically focused for CNMI airport firefighters.

Based on the Andersen Air Force Base website, the CNMI fire officers observed the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy training programs and emergency response techniques to see what is currently being used within the Department of Defense Fire Emergency Services. The exercise aims to provide them the techniques that they can apply in responding to future situations on Saipan.

It was disclosed that all the firefighters in the Air Force train the same way and the recent training is to ensure that when they respond to real-world situation such as aircraft crash, a house or a facility fire, they get the job done, they do it safely, and they do it the right way.

During the first three days of the training, CNMI fire officers participated in various exercises and visited the Naval Base Guam Fire and Emergency Services and the Guam Fire Department on their last two days.

According to Torres, while working side-by-side with their Air Force and Navy counterparts, the Saipan firefighters observed a barrier engagement response and exercise, an aircraft emergency response and egress exercise, and structural fire exercises. They also learned to develop a live fire safety briefing, fire department training program, and an incident commander emergency response checklist.

"We show them it's not just about going in there and putting the fire out, it's about going in there safely, getting the job done, and coming out safely," stated Torres.

Still based on the Andersen AFB website, Mesa was quoted as saying that he picked up some skills such as communications management and taking charge of the scene. Mesa is the DPS Fire Division search and rescue chief.

"I am just happy that the leadership here at Andersen AFB welcomes firefighters from the CNMI to come and train along side DOD firefighters. There is no need to spend a lot of money and send firefighters to the U.S. mainland to train on advance techniques when it can be done here on Guam with DOD firefighters. Especially now that everyone's budget is getting cut, even federal fire departments," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Torres, the former fire chief of the CNMI Ports Authority, said all year round Andersen AFB and Naval Base Guam send their firefighters the DoD Fire and Emergency Services Training Academy in Goodfellow, Texas to receive advance firefighting training and when they come back they share what they have learned with everyone to include outside (non-DoD) fire departments.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI firefighters and members of the Andersen Fire and Emergency Services Airmen gather for a group photo after their joint fire exercises in Guam. Four Saipan firefighters who joined the five-day training include Lt. Jesse Mesa, Francis Manglona, John Mettao, and Clinton Ngiraked. All are employees of the CNMI Department of Public Safety.

2 jury trials for Sen. Ayuyu set for next month

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has set for next month two jury trials in three criminal cases filed against Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (Ind-Rota).

Ayuyu

At a hearing on Tuesday, Ayuyu appeared in custody with his new court-appointed counsel, Bruce Berline.

In his latest criminal case, Ayuyu waived the advisement of his constitutional rights and the reading of the charges against him. The senator pleaded not guilty.

In the latest case, Judge Manglona set the jury trial for May 13, 2013 at 9am.

With respect to the two other cases, Manglona set the joint trial for May 15, 2013 at 9am.

After the hearing, the 48-year-old Ayuyu was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

In the first two cases, Ayuyu is charged over a conspiracy to smuggle eight dead Mariana fruit bats from Rota to Saipan in October 2010, concealing the bats inside a cardboard box beneath 40 lbs of lemons. A joint jury trial in the two cases was supposed to commence last Monday, April 1.

In the third case, Ayuyu is charged for possession of a cell phone while being detained last January at the Department of Corrections in Susupe. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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50-year-old man gets 5 years for sexually abusing girl

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday gave a 50-year-old man the maximum sentence of five years in jail for touching the genitals of a 12-year-old girl at a residence in China Town.

Camacho said Diego Somorang Kileleman shall serve the five years in jail day by day without the possibility of parole.

Kileleman was given credit for five months and 25 days time served.

Camacho said as this involves the sexual abuse of a minor child, he finds that the full maximum sentence of five years is the appropriate sentence.

Camacho is known for rejecting lenient plea deals and imposing maximum sentences.

After serving the five-year sentence, Kileleman will be placed on five years of supervised probation.

Camacho ordered the defendant to register as a sex offender.

At the hearing, Kileleman admitted to touching the genitals of the girl. He pleaded guilty to one count of child abuse and one count of assault and battery.

Assistant attorney general Chemere McField recommended five years in prison, while assistant public defender Matthew Meyer, counsel for Kileleman, recommended a jail term of one to two years.

Detective Rudolfo Hermosilla stated in his report that a police officer was dispatched to China Town where a sexual abuse of a minor allegedly occurred.

Hermosilla said investigation showed that the girl was sleeping on the kitchen floor when Kileleman touched her private parts.

The girl was awakened and ran away. The girl's mother called the police. Kileleman was then arrested.

Hermosilla said during his interview with Kileleman at the Department of Corrections that afternoon, the defendant stated that prior to the incident, he was drinking beer.

The detective said Kileleman confessed that "out of the blue" he touched the girl's private parts.

Hermosilla noticed that after making such confession, the defendant was laughing.

In September 2007, then Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona imposed a seven-day jail term on Kileleman for domestic violence. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

IP&E SPONSORSHIP

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IP&E CNMI manager Jeff Boyer, right, presents a $1,000 check on March 29, 2013, at Marianas Seaside Circuit to the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands for event sponsorship of the Inaugural Budweiser Go Kart Championship on April 6, 2013. Pictured from left are IP&E Saipan area manager Robert C. Torres, HANMI vice chair Gloria Cavanagh, and Boyer.

16 months in jail for ex-manager of remittance center

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has slapped a 16-month jail term against a former manager of a remittance center who had pleaded guilty to charges of conspiring to defraud a Philippine bank of $109,585.

During Tuesday's hearing, Manglona ordered that upon release from prison, defendant Armilaine Salamat, also known as Armilaine Legaspi, shall be placed on supervised release for three years.

» Defendant ordered to pay jointly with co-defendant $109K in restitution to PH bank

Salamat was required to immediately pay $109,585.33 in restitution jointly with co-defendant Ana Maria Villadiego Villegas to Philippine National Bank.

Manglona said payment is to be made to the court for disbursement to Philippine National Bank, through its counsel Rexford C. Kosack.

Among the conditions of her supervised release is that Salamat will be turned over to an immigration official for deportation proceedings. She was also ordered to pay a $200 special assessment fee and perform 200 hours of community work service.

Manglona imposed the forfeiture of Salamat's assets pursuant to a plea agreement that she entered with the U.S. government.

The judge granted the prosecution's motion to dismiss the remaining charges.

At the sentencing hearing, assistant U.S. attorney Rami Badawy recommended a sentence of 10 months in prison, restitution in the amount of $109,585.33 and forfeiture of defendant's assets.

Attorney Loren Sutton, counsel for Salamat, recommended a sentence of probation or five months of home confinement and five months of probation.

Recently, Manglona sentenced Villegas to 12 months in jail plus same conditions imposed against Salamat.

Salamat used to serve as manager of PNB Express, which was then a subsidiary of Philippine National Bank.

Mrs. Villegas and her husband, Haydn Villegas, were co-owners of the former Philippine Express Remittance.

According to the U.S. government, the scheme to defraud the bank began in 2004 when Mrs. Villegas started passing checks drawn on insufficient funds at PNB Express. Despite the eventual losses from Mrs. Villegas' worthless checks, Salamat continued to allow Mrs. Villegas to transact many worthless checks at PNB Express.

In May 2012, Manglona dismissed the case against Haydn Villegas after the U.S. government agreed to drop the charges. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB13-DPW/ED-101

BID SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 06, 2013 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PROVISION OF FOUR (4) DIESEL COMMERCIAL WOOD CHIPPERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER APRIL 04, 2013 AND MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIVISION OF ENERCY (EECBG) LOCATED AT THE SPRING DEVELOPMENT PLAZA OR REQUESTED VIA EMAIL TO **fourwoodchippers@recovery.gov.mp** DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL **QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS ITB MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING VIA E-MAIL TO fourwoodchippers@recovery.gov.mp OR FAXED TO (670) 664-4488 NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME ON APRIL 19, 2013. The Contracting Officer will respond to all written inquiries within 5 business days or by April 26, 2013.**

THE COMMONWEALTH WILL ALLOW AND ACCEPT ELECTRONIC BIDDING FROM ALL BIDDERS. FOR ON ISLAND BIDDERS, HARD COPY SUBMISSIONS ARE PREFERRED. ELECTRONIC BID SUBMITTALS MUST BE E-MAILED TO **procurement@pticom.com** AND MUST BE RECOVERED NO LATER THAN **10:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME, MAY 06, 2013.**

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ VICENTE S. ATTAO
ACTING DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIVISION

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Public Notice – Special Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Advisory Board of Trustees of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation will hold a special meeting beginning Friday, April 5, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Conference Room #3, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Call to the Audience

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

IV. MANAGEMENT REPORTS
A. **CEO Report:** Implementation Plan of CMS Plan of Correction & FY 2014 Budget
B. **Director of Public Health Report:** NCD Program Outcome & Health Care Impact Tax
C. **CFO Report:** Corporate Finances

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

VI. NEW BUSINESS
A. CEO Recruitment
B. Health Care Impact Tax
C. FY 2014 Budget

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION
A. CEO Recruitment Plan

IX. MISCELLANEOUS
A. Next Meeting
B. Adjournment

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 • Fax: (670) 236-8756

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting
The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2013 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan
(Tel: 234-9661 ● Fax: 234-9666 ● e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of March 21, 2013 minutes
5. Public Comments *(not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings
1. **Conditional Use Application #2011-6114.** DH Co., Ltd is proposing to operate ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) outdoor activities with parking spaces. This use is classified as Outdoor, Amusement and will be situated on Lot# 043 L 118 in Ladder Beach area, zoned as Rural.

C. Communications/ Reports
D. Old Business.
1. Update on the Zoning Law of 2013

E. New Business
1. Office operations & financial reports

F. Executive (Closed) Session.
G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING
for
DH Co., Ltd.

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. DH Co., Ltd is proposing to operate ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) outdoor activities with parking spaces. This use is classified as Outdoor, Amusement and will be situated on Lot# 043 L 118 in Ladder Beach area, zoned as Rural.

Date: **April 18, 2013 Thursday**
Time: **5:00 pm**
Place: **Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, April 17, 2013. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Japanese Rotarians to arrive for Parade of Books

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nine members of the Kishiwada North Rotary Club from Japan are expected to arrive in time for the 2013 Parade of Books organized by the Rotary Club of Saipan.

President Pete Shilling of Rotary Club of Saipan said Tuesday that he and vice president Laila Boyer, and New Generation committee director Reina Camacho will welcome the visiting Rotarians who will arrive next Friday.

Camacho

Camacho said in an interview that Kishiwada North Rotary Club originally intended to donate books to be used by competing teams in the Parade of Books, an annual competition open to elementary schools in the CNMI and aimed at encouraging literacy and creativity in a fun and innovative way.

"However, we immediately started planning for this year's event right after the 2012 Parade of Books, and we have already decided on a theme for participating schools," she explained.

Camacho disclosed that the book donation, which amounts to $1,500, will be donated to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

"Kishiwada North Rotary Club has been supportive of the Rotary Club of Saipan's literacy program. We thank them for their valuable support and assistance," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Camacho said a total of eight public and private elementary schools will take part in the 2013 Parade of Books slated for April 13, 2pm, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

This year's theme is "Legends and Myths of the Marianas and Micronesia," and Camacho said the confirmed participants and their corresponding legends to perform are as follows: Dandan Elementary School, Sirena; Garapan Elementary School, Flame Tree; Eucon International School, Juan Malo & His Miraculous Medicine; Kagman Elementary School, The Great Sea Race; Koblerville Elementary School, Breadfruit Tree; Mount Carmel School, Banana & Coconut; Oleai Elementary School; and San Vicente Elementary School, Taga the Boy.

Camacho noted that the number of participants this year is "still fewer" since they had as many as 14 competing schools in the past.

"It's a challenge for the schools to commit to this event because of their existing programs and examinations. Still, we are excited to welcome for the first time two new participating private schools this year, Mount Carmel School and Eucon International School," she said.

Camacho revealed that they changed the criteria for this year's competition, giving more points for actual performance and less for props and costumes.

"Primarily, we want the participating schools to focus on understanding the legend and to give their all in their performance. Costumes are great but there's cost involved and we're mindful of that. Also, costumes can be distractive," she added.

Each school will be allowed to perform for a minimum of three minutes, with a maximum allotted time of five minutes.

Up for grabs is $1,000 for first place, $750 for second place, $500 for third place, $300 for fourth place, $200 for fifth place, and $100 as consolation prizes.

The 2013 Parade of Books is made possible with the sponsorship of Delta Air Lines.

For more information, email reinacamacho@gmail.com or saipanrotary@gmail.com.

Junior High Mock Trials on Saturday

Teams from seven CNMI schools are set to participate in the Junior High Mock Trial program this Saturday at the Guma Hustisia beginning at 10:30am.

Participating schools include Mt. Carmel, Hopwood Junior High School, Chacha Oceanview Junior High, Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior High School, Grace Christian Academy (Rota), Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja, and Tinian Junior High School.

Teams from these schools will argue the same civil case used in the recently completed high school mock trial competition.

Four distinguished judges will preside over this year's event including CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, Associate Justice John A. Manglona, Associate Justice Perry B. Inos, and CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

The Junior High Mock Trial Program is sponsored annually by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

The program is intended to help students develop a useful knowledge about the law and court procedures in an enjoyable, non-competitive format.

It also readies participants for the competitive mock trial program at the high school level.

The public is cordially invited to attend this entertaining and educational event.

For more information, please contact Humanities Council staff at 235-4785. ***(PR)***

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SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Community urged to learn about child sexual abuse prevention

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschnedier is flanked by members and supporters of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domesitc & Sexual Violence and the Family Violence Task Force following the proclamation signing that declared April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This year's theme is "End Sexual Violence. Talk early. Talk often," which focuses on child sexual assault prevention.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and the Family Violence Task Force urged the community to educate themselves about the issue on sexual assault and open up the lines of communication to prevent it from happening.

Coalition executive director Maisie B. Tenorio said that here in the CNMI, people are "much more willing to address the issue head on nowadays," thanks to the outreach efforts of community-based organizations that get down to the grassroots level and understand people's experiences and help them figure out how to get past it.

In the past, Tenorio noted how the public would cringe, walk away, and refuse to talk when the subject on sexual assault is brought up. Nowadays, community members come out and engage themselves in events that discuss and address the issue.

"It's a very serious topic but we're excited about the community readiness to address the issue," she told *Saipan Tribune*. "There's hope in that, even though sexual assault is extremely tragic, very painful, and oftentimes takes years for people to heal. We look at it from a standpoint of hope for our community—hope that we will have one day a CNMI without sexual assault."

Coalition and task force members gathered at the Governor's Conference Room on Tuesday to witness Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider sign the proclamation designating April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Other supporters, including Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez, Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero, and Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez (Cov-Saipan).

"The purpose of Sexual Assault Awareness month in the CNMI is to increase public education efforts that encourage collective action toward ending sexual assault, supporting survivors, and speaking out against the harmful attitudes that perpetrate violence in the CNMI," stated partly in the proclamation read by detective Flora Aguon and arson investigator Patrick George.

This year's theme is "End Sexual Violence. Talk Early. Talk Often," which gives emphasis on child sexual abuse prevention by taking action and starting early and often conversations with the young members of the community.

According to Tenorio, children are "extremely vulnerable" to sexual assault. National statistics shows that without prevention, one in six boys and one in four girls will experience child sexual abuse before the age of 18.

Tenorio said the CNMI joins the nationwide push to address the issue by empowering the children with the knowledge by educating them about healthy sexuality and sexual development.

"Educate them so they can be empowered to speak up when something does happen. Oftentimes, children don't know that what's happening to them is child sexual assault because they are victimized by people that they know, trust, and love so it becomes very confusing for them," she said.

Tenorio also emphasized the need to educate the parents and other adults in the community. "Adults don't know what the signs are so we're really pushing people to educate themselves about it and open up the lines of communication so that if and when it does happen to the children in their homes, there's open communication and they can speak freely about it.

She noted that Sexual Assault Awareness Month is also an opportunity to celebrate the dedicated group of responders that provide quality services and assistance to victims and survivors of sexual assault.

Rep. Villagomez, who served as keynote speaker during the proclamation signing, touted the need to pool resources together to prevent sexual violence in the Northern Marianas.

"Let us continue to talk about it and also do more to see to it that it is a major public health, human rights, and social justice issue that should not be ignored and reinforce the need for prevention not only in the month of April, but all throughout the year, every year," he added.

The month-long celebration will feature various events and activities that encourage participation and raise awareness among community members. These include Walk Against Sexual Assault on April 3, 10, 16, and 24; information booths at the Garapan Street Market every Thursday; softball tournament on April 5 to 7 at the Capital Hill Softball Field; Day of Prayer on April 7; and Project PROM clothing drive from April 1 to 19.

The festivities will culminate with NMCADSV's signature event, SAFE Jamboree, on April 14 from noon to 8pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

"We just want to push everyone to educate themselves about sexual assault, reach out and open the line. Just talk about it because if we start real conversations here and there, it'll just ripple out," said Tenorio.

For more information, call the NMCADSV at 234-3878.

Rotary commissions artist for Texas Hold'em tourney bracelet

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan has commissioned a local artist to create the bracelet that would serve as one of the prizes for the champion in the 2013 Pacific Hold'em Tournament.

Rotary vice president Laila Boyer said Tuesday that Vincent Torres will make the champion bracelet which will feature the craftsmanship and elements that symbolize the region.

Boyer said that the tournament winner will also win the $12,000 prize pool in addition to the champion bracelet.

She said there have been players who registered for the tournament and even gave their bracelet size.

"They really believe that they will win the tournament," Boyer told Rotarians.

Boyer said that close to 50 individuals already signed up for the upcoming tournament, an event considered as unprecedented in the history of poker in the CNMI and the entire region.

The number includes six to eight registrants from Guam, and more players from both Guam and Japan are expected to sign up, she added

The 2013 Pacific Hold'em Tournament, which has a $200 buy-in per player, is slated for Saturday, April 20.

Boyer noted, though, that they have until next payroll period to confirm whether or not the event push through.

She said earlier that Rotary Club of Saipan needs at least a hundred players to go through with the fundraising tournament which may become another signature event to support the various community projects of the club.

Boyer urged interested players to buy their tickets and register for the event soon. To register, log on to www.saipanrotary.com or email saipanrotary@gmail.com.

The 2013 Pacific Hold'em Tournament is sponsored by Bacardi, Budweiser, Century Hotel, Fiji Artesian Water, *Marianas Variety*, Marpac, Microl Toyota, Power 99, and Saipan World Resort.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 4, 2004

NMI to get $54K AIDS funding

The Northern Mariana Islands stands to receive $54,627 as its share in the more than $1 billion in grants that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released Friday to states and territories for medical care, support services and prescription drugs for people living with HIV/AIDS. The CNMI's share comprises $50,000 as the base grant and an additional $4,627 that would go to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program to help in the purchase of prescription medicines. Five other Pacific areas and U.S. territories-American Samoa, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Palau-got the same base grant of $50,000 each but some, like Guam, got a higher share in the drug assistance program. As broken down in the news release, American Samoa would get $2314; Guam, $84,393; Marshall Islands, $2314; Palau and FSM, zero.

Dandan school has own fitness program

Led by no less than their principal, Jonas Barcinas, Dandan Elementary School students jumped, hopped, clapped, and grooved to popular beats for about an hour early Friday morning on the school grounds. It was their weekly physical fitness program, which the school begun in January this year "to promote overall health and prevent diseases" such as the top health concerns in the CNMI: diabetes and obesity. "We want to make sure that our students and teachers alike are conscious about their health. Children need not just be aware about proper health but they should be doing it. Teachers, at the same time, need to practice what they are teaching the kids, so together we go out of our classrooms and gather here every Friday for our regular workout," said Barcinas.

Apr. 4, 2005

Over $1M increase sought by NMC in FY 2006 budget

Northern Marianas College is pitching a budget that would increase appropriations by $1.2 million over the current fiscal year, including an average 6-percent salary hike for all personnel. The $9.26 million proposal represents an 11 percent increase in the general operations funding and a 40 percent increase in vocational program funding. In its FY 2006 appropriations budget proposal, NMC asked the administration for $7.58 million for general operations and $1.68 million for its apprentice programs, including nursing, education, construction, management, and hospitality.

Lobbyist refunds $30K to SGMA

The Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association stands to receive $30,000 as refund from the lobbying firm Preston Gates Ellis & Rouvelas Meeds for the services it rendered to the organization during the last half of the 1990s. SGMA executive director Richard A. Pierce said Saturday that he had recently talked with Jonathan Blank, an attorney for Preston Gates Ellis & Rouvelas Meeds, who told him of the refund. "SGMA will receive $30,000, from an old PGERM escrow account, which was never applied to fees from the law firm," Pierce said. "Mr. Blank has informed me that the check is now in the mail and on its way here."

Apr. 4, 2006

Admin mulls $15M central govt bldg.

The Fitial administration is mulling the possibility of constructing a $15-million building that would house most, if not all, government agencies. Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said that a presentation was made on the planned capitol building during yesterday's Cabinet meeting. The Governor's Office, the Legislature and other government offices are expected to be relocated to the capitol building. The proposed site is the location of the old court, next to the Multi-Purpose Center and the Department of Public Safety office in Susupe.

Aetna is Fund's new 3rd party administrator

The NMI Retirement Fund has chosen Aetna as its new third party administrator for the group health insurance program, replacing Hawaii Pacific Medical Referral. HPMR, which has been the Fund's third party administrator since August 2001, has received a 90-day termination notice, which takes effect in June. Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes said the notice is pursuant to the existing contract with HPMR, which provides that either the GHI or the company may terminate the administrative services agreement, which expires on Dec. 31, 2006.

MTEC continues youth outreach

The Marianas Tourism Education Council continues its outreach to public and private elementary schools, with plans to visit Kagman Elementary this month.

MTEC most recently presented during awards assembly at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School for grades 4-6, delivering a PowerPoint presentation on the Northern Marianas tourism industry and handing out prizes during a post-presentation quiz on what the students learned.

"We're very grateful to GTC Elementary School and the other elementary schools for welcoming us so warmly to share about our visitor industry, which affects everyone in the Northern Marianas," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "Most especially, we're excited for the opportunity to have discussion with the students on how they can help support the industry, whether it be through island cleanups, being friendly and hospitable to visitors, or joining a MY WAVE club at their school."

A number of schools have revived or started MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Clubs as a result of MTEC's visits. MTEC offers seed money for new clubs, monthly financial incentives for advisors of active clubs, and financially support on a case-by-case basis for club that are involved in MTEC-sanctioned tourism activities, such as airport greetings.

Earlier this year, MTEC also funded the trip of San Antonio Elementary student Christian Merante to a student tourism summit on Guam. Merante was randomly selected from among all student participants of the MTEC/MY WAVE Tourism Summit held in October 2012. As part of the summit, Merante was able to visit historic sites on Guam with historians and other professionals.

"What I learned from the trip was to preserve history points or relics…there (were) a lot of history points there, and they were tourist attractions," said Merante.

For more information about MTEC, contact Marianas Visitors Authority Community projects manager Martin Duenas at mduenas@mymarianas.com or 663-33210 for more information. ***(MTEC)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary students answer questions on tourism as part of the presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council.

MMAC sets team captains meeting today

The 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer committee will hold a team captains meeting today, April 4, beginning at 5:30pm at the Commonwealth Cancer Association office on Middle Road in Gualo Rai (near NMPASI).

"All team captains or their representatives are encouraged to attend this important meeting. Team registration deadline is this week. We're still inviting all families, businesses, schools, non-profit organizations and government agencies who are interested in joining the battle against cancer to form a team. It is not too late," said 2013 MMAC team recruitment chairwoman Catherine Attao-Toves.

The MMAC is the largest cancer fundraising event in the CNMI. It is the signature fundraising activity of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, a volunteer-led non-profit 501(c)3 organization that ensures all funds raised are spent entirely in the CNMI on cancer awareness programs, cancer patient support services and other cancer-related activities.

The 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on April 26-27 from 6pm to 6am at Hopwood Junior High School in Chalan Piao.

The 2013 MMAC is brought to you by title sponsors Delta Air Lines, DFS Saipan, Ltd., IT&E, Joeten Charitable Foundation, *Marianas Variety*, Sorensen Media Group, and Take Care/FHP.

Special thanks to major sponsors Brabu Pharmacy, Docomo Pacific, Hopwood Junior High School, McDonald's of Saipan, PHI Pharmacy, and Traders Insurance Co. For more information call 989-1987, email emanuel.borja@gmail.com or visit www.cca-marianas.org. ***(MMAC)***

NMC to conduct financial aid workshop for KagHS students

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting a financial aid workshop for Kagman High School students and is encouraging all parents to provide their children with the necessary information and documents to enable them to complete the application process.

The aim of the workshop, which will be held on April 5, 2013, is to help students prepare for college by assisting them with filling the Free Application for Financial Student Aid, or FAFSA. This is the form that students need to complete in order to apply for federal student aid such as the Pell grant, which awards up to $5,645 a year.

Financial aid funds can be used to pay for college expenses such as tuition, books, technology resources (like laptop or tablet computer), room and board, transportation and other expenses necessary to ensure student success in college.

According to Manny Castro, financial aid counselor at NMC, college expenses can add up quickly for new students.

"We encourage that students who will be attending college for the first time maximize all financial resources by applying for grants and scholarships," Castro said.

During the workshop, Kagman High School seniors will receive one-to-one assistance in filling out the FAFSA and also receive information about other financial aid opportunities.

The workshop will be conducted on April 5, 2013 at Kagman High School with two scheduled sessions for that day: a morning session from 10am to 11:30pm and an afternoon session from 12:25pm to 1:45pm.

To ensure that all students complete the FAFSA, parents of KHS seniors are encouraged to have their children bring/complete the following required documents to the workshop:

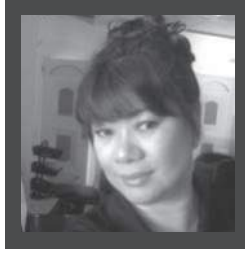
- Student's and parent's filed 2012-1040 tax returns along with their 2012 W-2 statements.
- U.S. Passport, Birth Certificate, and/or U.S. Permanent Residency Card (Green Card).
- Parent's signature on FAFSA application & Verification Worksheet. Available at (http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/fotw1314/pdf/PdfFafsa13-14.pdf)
- Fill-out Step One (Student) questions 1-31 of the FAFSA.
- Answer the questions on Step Three (Student) (45-57) of the FAFSA.
- Fill out Step Four (Parent) questions 58-78.
- Verify that all information is accurate and legible.

A FAFSA workshop has also been scheduled for April 22-26 from 8:30am to 10:30am at Marianas High School. For more information, contact the NMC Financial Office at 234-5498 Ext. 1281 or 1525. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday greetings go out to Joanie Paraiso who is turning 12 years old today, April 4, and belated happy 4th birthday to Brianna Mae Paraiso, who had her special day last March 30, 2013. We wish you more blessings and birthdays to come and good health. We love you both.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday greetings go out to Margie Borja who is celebrating her special day today, April 4. I hope that the coming year provide you with all the happiness and success your heart yearns. Enjoy your day. Greetings coming from your loving family and friends

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Plan Amendments Available for Public Comment

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities (CNMI CDD) is seeking public comments on its amendments to the FY 2012-2016 Developmental Disabilities Basic Grant State Plan. The CNMI CDD's mission focuses on advocacy for inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life. This helps promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration in all facets of community life, through culturally competent programs. The Council receives funding to carry out its mission from the Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Developmental Disabilities under the provisions of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance & Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (PL 106-402). The purpose of the Act is to make sure people with developmental disabilities and their families take part in the design of and have access to needed community services, supports and other forms of assistance.

Your comments are important to the work of the Council. Please submit your commits by **May 20, 2013** using one of the following options:

Visit, mail, fax, call our office or email comments to:

CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities
P.O. Box 502565
Saipan, MP 96950
1312 Anatahan Drive
Capitol Hill, Saipan
(670) 664-7000/1
(670) 664-7030 Fax

If you require alternative formats of the state plan amendments, please contact CDD office at (670) 664-7000/1, or email: eada.cnmicdd@gmail.com

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part B.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Council on Developmental Disabilities

DRAFT
2012 – 2016 STRATEGIC GOALS AND ACTIONS

Goal Area: EMPLOYMENT

GOAL 1: People with developmental disabilities have improved access to employment and entrepreneurial opportunities consistent with their interest, abilities and needs.

OBJECTIVE 1.1: Support nine (9) public awareness activities in the CNMI that will create opportunities for employment and entrepreneurial services as well as improve upon the related resources available in the CNMI for people with developmental disabilities in collaboration with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), Workforce Investment Agency (WIA), Northern Marianas College (NMC, CDI-UCEDD), Small Business Development Center, and other stakeholders by September 30, 2016.

Goal Area: TRANSPORTATION

GOAL 2: People with developmental disabilities have access to transportation services for work, school, medical, emergency, and perform other basic needs.

OBJECTIVE 2.1: A minimum 25 of individuals with developmental disabilities will engage with and provide input via meetings with the Commonwealth Transit Authority Office to develop a viable Public and Para-Transit transportation System by September 30, 2016.

OBJECTIVE 2.2: Provide five (5) technical assistance consultations to the Commonwealth Transit Authority Office (COTA) on transportation needs of individuals with developmental disabilities by September 30, 2016.

Goal Area: EMERGENCY AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

GOAL 3: Increase access to emergency and disaster preparedness information and education that will be provided to people with developmental disabilities and their families so they are informed in the event of a disaster.

OBJECTIVE 3.1: A minimum 50 of individuals with disabilities will engage in activities that inform and increase the emergency and disaster preparedness understanding and use of resources available to people with developmental disabilities and other disabilities during emergency and catastrophic disasters by September 30, 2016.

Goal Area: SELF-ADVOCACY

GOAL 4: Individuals with developmental disabilities will engage in activities that will help educate private and public establishments on how to improve the accessibility of their entities.

OBJECTIVE 4.1: A minimum of 25 self-advocates will engage in educational and training activities that will provide a self advocates point of view on how business, schools, and government should be accessible.

GOAL 5: People with developmental disabilities will vocalize their opinions on issues that affect their lives in the community.

OBJECTIVE 5.1: 75 people with developmental disabilities will be engaged in activities that promote systems change by September 30, 2016.

Goal Area: LEADERSHIP

GOAL 6: Actively engage people with developmental disabilities in leadership and systems advocacy opportunities.

OBJECTIVE 6.1: A minimum of 15 individuals with disabilities will be exposed to and participate in leadership in disability advocacy trainings by September 30, 2016.

Goal Area: RESPITE CARE

GOAL 7: Family members and/or Caregivers of individuals with developmental disabilities will have access to respite services made available through the Commonwealth Respite Services Program (CNMI PL 14-36).

OBJECTIVE 7.1: Individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members will assist the Council in the promulgation of the rules and regulations as intended to implement CNMI Public Law 14-36 on Respite Care in FY 2013.

OBJECTIVE 7.2: The CNMI Council will submit a proposed budget to the CNMI Government for the Commonwealth Respite Care Program annually.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

North Korea's war of words

There is a vigorous war of words going on between North Korea on one side and the United States and South Korea on the other, and it shows no signs of letting up. Anyone who likes trash talk should be amply entertained. But we shouldn't ignore the actual risk all this entails.

The North Korean government threatened to hit the U.S. with nuclear armed missiles, and the U.S. had strategic bombers fly practice runs in South Korea. Pyongyang staged a mass rally with citizens urging "Death to the U.S. Imperialists," and South Korea fired back that it would "respond strongly" to "any provocation." On Sunday, the Obama administration sent F-22 stealth fighters to South Korea, to go with naval deployments in the area.

All this would be more worrisome if the two sides had not been through this noisy ritual so many times.

North Korea has good reason not to back up its threats with action. It does have nuclear devices, though it probably hasn't figured out how to shrink them to fit on a rocket. There is also the stark fact, well-known to the North Koreans, that the use of nukes would mean the immediate extinction of the regime.

Though Kim Jong Un's military has put its forces on high alert, it hasn't dispatched thousands of troops to the border in preparation for hostilities. Nor has it made good on its threat to close a joint North Korean-South Korean industrial complex on its side of the border _ probably because it would lose badly needed hard currency.

Why bother with all this rhetoric, then? It's most likely a ruse by the young dictator to rally his people, who otherwise might focus on the dismal state of the economy. It also serves to show those in the government and armed forces that, despite his inexperience, he's strong enough to stand up to the world as his father and grandfather did. If war doesn't break out, Kim can brag that he cowed the aggressors into retreat.

The Obama administration has responded appropriately, with firm statements and shows of military force designed to underscore its determination. No one in Washington has forgotten that the North's 1950 invasion of the South came after the U.S. secretary of state delineated the American "defensive perimeter" in such a way as to exclude South Korea. The administration's responses are also aimed at our allies South Korea and Japan, to reassure them of our unflagging commitment.

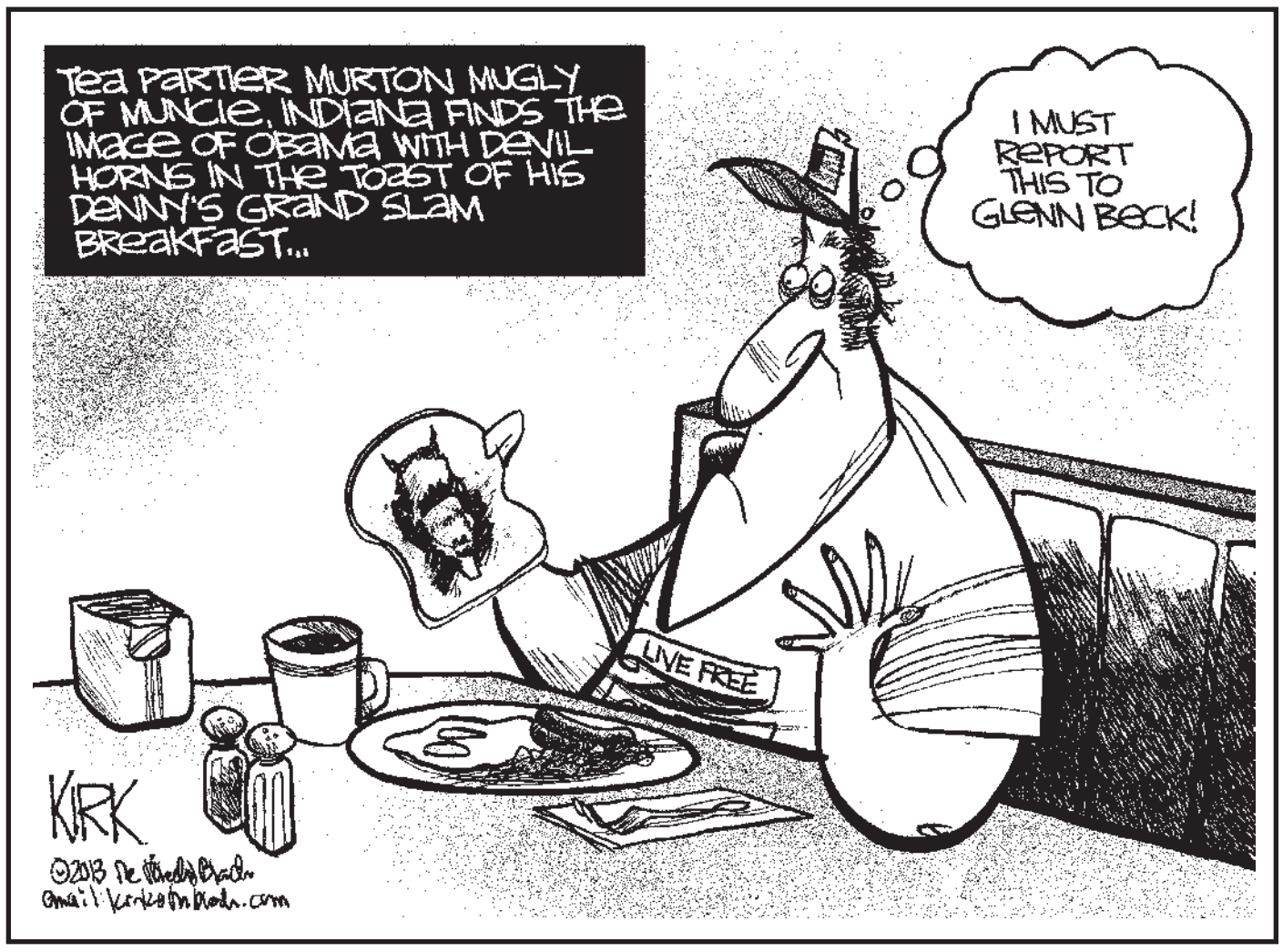
None of these are real solutions. That would require a clear way to force North Korea to give up not only its nuclear arsenal, but its brinkmanship and repression. That would require China going all-out to pressure its ally to change its ways. Unfortunately, the realistic option for Washington is to keep leaning on Beijing while looking for ways to strengthen economic and diplomatic measures against the North.

In the absence of such answers, we get military theater. But when countries start brandishing instruments of war, there is the real chance that one will miscalculate how far it can go.

The North Koreans have a history of pushing their luck, as when they sank a South Korean warship in 2010. Seoul says any recurrence would prompt retaliation, which could lead to catastrophe. "If we are lucky it will all be bluster on everyone's side," MIT defense expert Jim Walsh told The Guardian of Britain. "That is the good outcome. The bad outcome is that it is bluster until someone screws up and then war happens."

The U.S. has to be clear, calm and immovable in its commitments. Firmness has kept the peace before, and with a little luck it will again.

(c)2013 Chicago Tribune


TEA PARTIER MURTON MUGLY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA FINDS THE IMAGE OF OBAMA WITH DEVIL HORNS IN THE TOAST OF HIS DENNY'S GRAND SLAM BREAKFAST...
I MUST REPORT THIS TO GLENN BECK!
LIVE FREE
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China dreaming

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

While living in Washington in the mid-'90s, I watched the pervasive belief in Murphy's Law, that if a failure can be imagined, it will happen. DC's bureaucracies mitigate corruption and failure. Policies revolved around heightened sense of security. The best offense is defense. Half of the federal budget goes into this mindset led by the Pentagon.

Western thought hinges on Hegelian dialectic, confrontational and competitive. Drawing the dividing line is the practice, which is fine when one is ready to act, but not helpful when still at the level of ideational discourse. In social conversations, I often find myself replying to a response of "I do not agree," with "How do you see it differently?" Disagreement in thought is often a cover-up for the disdain of diversity of opinions and perspectives.

Xi Jin Ping gave a maiden policy statement when elected as president in the recently concluded National People's Congress. He treaded on the metaphor of "China Dream and Renaissance".

President Xi Jin Ping, VP Li Yuan Chao, and Premier Li Keqiang are fifth generation leaders since 1949. In the turmoil attendant to leadership succession in dynastic China, the transition is now handled peacefully, with transitions generationally measured by decades. The ascendant group takes great effort in showing that they build on the work of previous administrations. Integration rather than confrontation experienced in the excesses of the Cultural Revolution is the order of the day.

Obama was vilified when he moved into the White House, stealthly in dismantling vestiges of the Bush's watch, and appearing to be accommodating to the Republicans in Congress. His stance was perceived as political weakness.

Marx and Engels' manifesto on economic class clashes in the midst of England's Industrial Revolution was appropriated by Bolshevik Lenin to lead Russia, influenced the ideological direction of neighbor China. Mao Zedong saw that the urban industrial dwellers were not the engine of China's political change; the agrarian peasants and the people's liberation army were. On the tail end of his more than two decades as Chairman, he reasserted that conviction. The government unleashed the power of youth on the countryside, condemning the illuminati that had gone soft in their academic niche and privilege status. That turned sour when the Chairman was portrayed as being on a power grab as well.

Upon Mao and Zhou Enlai's demise, along with the Gang of Four, Deng Xiaoping shifted to urban investors in the "reform and opening-up" that set the tone to China's economic miracle. Jiang Zemin promoted "three represents" as a summary of the last 70-year history of China, the integration of revolution, development, and reform.

The fourth generation of leaders led by Hu Jintao and Wen Jiabao focused on the same theme, used the CPC's "scientific outlook on development" and turned it as earth-friendly and people-centered. The current China Dream of green economics and democratic broadening comes from this impulse.

The West is preoccupied with policy direction of the new administration. The "rule of law" orientation rather than a "rule of live human beings" allows "law" to exist independent of human context. We note that constitutional provisions still require interpretation and implementation by human beings who debate, hone or elaborate by the discourse in Legislative session. Ideological battle is our heritage, thus, the pretense at objectivity of rule by statute.

China's inherent pragmatism so far has guided rhetoric, deliberation, and action. Truth after all is in the eye of the beholder; better to focus on practical consideration rather than correct ideology. Thus, "socialism with a Chinese face" is no idle claim. It is not an assertion of ideology; it is an affirmation of politics, pragmatic and relevant.

In *China Today*, an article articulates three features. First, it provides the opportunity for a population of 1.35 billion to fulfill individual ambitions. Second, opportunities involve all walks of life across all vocations, in the whole spectrum of the humble and the glorified. Third, the dream is open to the rest of the world. Today, one in every five human in the world is Chinese. The China dream is with, for, and on behalf of the world.

We caught two of President Xi's pronouncements. One came in late 2012: "Empty talk holds-up national development; only solid endeavors lead to prosperity." The other dogs his trail on visits to government officials: "Never think you can both hold public office and make a big fortune."

The dreaming requires bold action. After the 18th Party Congress, eight senior officials came under investigation on corruption charges. In a "face" conscious culture, the investigation is already a slap on the face!

Public service that offers commercial advantage is the Party's challenge on member's discipline. Former Premier Wen Jiabao threatened divorce when his wife failed to heed his warning against raking in too much wealth. The *NY Times* reported that Wen's family wealth is worth billions. The Premier immediately asked the Party to investigate his family!

Descartes famous *cogito ergo sum* takes on a different Chinese slant: "We are, therefore, we dream." And we journey on!

Potput Na Dibin Marianas

Mapau i asuntun impeachment lau gi mismu tiempu, finañagu un' taduñg hoyu gi fina' dañkulu na dibin gobietnu. Sumen taduñg na lusenfetnos 'nai gaige dibita siha.

Ha disgrana sensian esperansa ya ti siña ensegidas ta aregla halom gima'ta. Kontodu higante na alefante gaige na esta ti hulat gi halom salan gima'ta. Taiguenau pinetpotña yan tine'ugña dibin iya Marianas na biahe. Gi hilu' ennau, mas menos bisnis sa' lamegai dumiñgu i tanu'. Mas este na sinisede ha rebaha kontribusion tax. Mas gatdun i karera gi halom homhum na tituka' dibi.

Ni kuantu na kako' finu' Iñgles un' habla. Ti u tinilaika ya mas siempre ha palo'pu' yan hana fañigilulog hit sa' sige ha' lumoka' i hegsu' dibi. Diberas, esta hana' doku apigasan teñguhu 'an hu konsidera i kantidan dibi ni sumen achagu' yan haf' ta rikokohe na tiempu. Makat mampos na dibina taimanu 'nai siña ta soyu' mas kontribusion tax sin tapunu' i industrian bisnis guine.

■■■

'Nai Katgadu Dibi

I programan man-ritirau ta dididi $375 miyon pesus ni kada ratu ma-batsala halom yan huyuñg gi kotte. Kase ennau i $190 miyon pesus na dibi para u fan ma-apase i gumagagau kontribusion niha ginen i programa.

I tetehnan kase ha sustene i pagamienton man-ritirau esta Matsu 2014. Dispues de ennau, retumbu didog na yinauyau gi katkuet lugat guine sa' ma'tut pagamienton man-ritirau. Ala kuenta kulan ta prepapara para 'an mattu oran finatai i programa yan enteru gi puntan hogsu' Tagpochau.

Mientras sige i seguru na matcha guatu i kantit finatai, sige ha' i man-sabiun i hegsu' I Deni machansa gueku siha na rekommendasion gi hechuran kadu' na satbasion. Na ti magahet na ginen siha, pot 35 años na abusu, na taiguine uttimoña i programa? Kau rekommendasion supen tasi i propiu satbasion?

Gigon ma'tut kontribusion $65 miyon pesus gi i ekonomia ni mafattu ginen pagamienton man-ritirau, ayu siempre na man-abende hit mahlug lapes, dadeg, pineduñg balasu' yan maheg, pegi', 'an konsumon magagu siha, matiteg meyas yan mayulañg sapatos. De dios ti hu guiguife na u fattu este na ha'ane. Lau estague' i silensiu na chalan ni ta pokakate pa'gu. Gi silensiu lokue' na manera, bai' soyu na in' prepara hamyu.

Maseha hecuran inensinahyau, mauleg ta tutuohon man-mananom gi gualu' familia kontodu pinegsai. 'An peskadot hau pues tutuhon umaregla traste tasi. Mauleg na offisiu gi para ta prebeniye lamasan familia mauleg na totchen tasi. Todu ginanan miyu limitte gi mas man-presisu na nesessidat. Los dimas, pega ya unna' sahñge para dispues.

■■■

Didog Pineblen I Tanu'

Hu li'e gi guinefi-hu i hu diskukute guine na biahe. Hu ñgiñge' lokue' ginen mañglu' finatton fanumganan yan asun masahalom i tanu' na iran añglu' yan figan u mas fotte na biahe. Todu u fan añglu' halom esta i pottanmonedan familia. Ayu solu u fan safon ñaihon i man-gai tinanom yan pinegsai 'sino tumuñtu' man-sulu'.

I figan ti i didog na ininan atdau. Gaige este gi 'nai ha prensa lamayot patte gi familia-ta didog na ha'ilas. Tat ti unina' ma'ya' fan ataña, ensinahyau gi halom silensiu lau didog na figan, ya u ñgaha' hulu' man-gagau abiu na ayudu. Siempre kulan ta bira hit ta'lu tatte gi tutuon kuaresma. I fetti i mamamaila'. Satbasion-mu gaige solu gi haf' na preparasion un' petsige pa'gu.

Esta guahu mismu hu fafaisen si Santa Maria yan i Nanalibreta na u tagam haf' lini'e-hu sa' inipos na sa'pet kontra i linahyan. Puede mahuñgog tinayuyot-hu antes de finatton mediu Abrit.

■■■

Abiu na ginagau

Gi silensiu na manera, tat ti mananayuyot abiu na ayudu ginen hilu' asut na mapagahes iya Marianas. Este na fina' ñgaha' didog tinateña.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Tat ti mamadedese gi halom rimulinon sumen chafleg na ekonomia.

I ti rumisisibe ayudun federat i mas man-inaminanasa ni baban i tiempu. Piot ayu na mañeluta i mañasaga giya Tinian yan Luta. Mampos man-hinegse ni guaguan katkuet fektus gi tenda siha.

Lamegai dumiñgu i tanu' sa' taftaf mali'e na taya' appottunidat cho'chu' 'nai siña masuppotta familian niha gi hilu' disiente na eskalera. Dichosu na disision lau triste lokue' gi mismu tiempu. Makat na tinituhon 'nai pa'gu madiñgu i tanu'. Mauleg na guaha inetnon tautau-ta mafotma para u fan man-ayuda gi nuebu na finattu siha.

Estague' 'nai talili'e sensian antau na kutturan nabitu maseha manu 'nai u fan gaige. Sumen na'magof i sensian isla gi sinsiyu na ayudu gi prohimon niha mismu.

Maseha makat i tafafana', mas libianu karerata sa' mangaige mismu parehuta gi bandan ayudu estake kayada kinalamten i nuebu na pastahen linala'. Bien felis yan felis pasgua!

■■■

Un' palao'an bumabaye si Moses satbasion kontra otden ginen i rai para u fan mapunu' todu famaguon lalahe. Ginen menhalomña ha pega un' neni gi halom kanastra ya ha choneg huyuñg gi sadog. Ayu na patgon guiya si Moses, tentagu' i Saina gi tutuhon inestablesen tanu' mañgilisyanu. Siña ha' malate' yan fuetsudu i rai, lau ti ha supone na kontodu hagaña mismu kumontra tinago'ña mapunu' famaguon lalahe.

'Star Wars' today: What would Reagan do?

President Reagan stunned fellow citizens and the world 30 years ago this month with a dramatic announcement that the United States would develop and deploy a system capable of intercepting and destroying strategic ballistic missiles. Like President Kennedy's pledge to send a man to the moon, Reagan's vision was meant to stretch minds to new realities that most found inconceivable.

As the Strategic Defense Initiative, or SDI, developed, this vision encompassed three big ideas. First, technological advances would make it possible to "hit a bullet with a bullet." Second, when fully deployed, this missile defense system would "render nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete." For Reagan, this was an essential steppingstone to his even grander vision of a world free of nuclear weapons. Third, to persuade America's Cold War adversary to eliminate its superpower nuclear arsenal as well, Reagan proposed to share this SDI technology with Moscow.

All three dimensions of Reagan's vision drew immediate, fiery criticism at home and abroad. Skeptics argued that killing a missile with a missile was technically impossible. Thirty years and more than $150 billion of investment later, this objection has been largely overcome. Today, the United States and its allies have deployed missile defense systems for shorter-range missiles (for example, the Israeli Iron Dome and U.S. Patriot systems) and for longer-range missiles (the sea-based Aegis system and a ground-based system deployed in Alaska). Just this month, in response to North Korea's threats, the Obama administration announced plans to deploy an additional 14 ground-based interceptors.

Reagan's vision of a world free of nuclear weapons was initially rejected by most of the American establishment as naive and dangerous. In the last decade, however, four of the bluest chips from the American Cold War establishment—George Shultz, Henry Kissinger, William Perry and Sam Nunn—have put this back on the American strategic agenda.

In his first international speech as president, in Prague in the spring of 2009, Barack Obama made this goal his own, arguing that the existence of nuclear weapons is "the most dangerous legacy of the Cold War." The new START arms control agreement reached by Obama and Russia's then-President Dmitry Medvedev in April 2010 took a modest step toward that end.

Perhaps the most controversial aspect of Reagan's concept was his proposal to share this technology with our Soviet adversaries. During their October 1986 summit in Reykjavik, Iceland, Reagan proposed to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev "to share the benefits of strategic defense. We will agree now to a treaty committing to do so in conjunction with the elimination of ballistic missiles." Moreover, Reagan promised that it would be a "binding treaty that would provide for the sharing of research that demonstrated a potential for defensive applications."

Although Gorbachev was intrigued by Reagan's aspiration to eliminate all nuclear weapons, he and his government were suspicious of U.S. intentions. Thus, at the end of the summit, Gorbachev rejected Reagan's bold package because Washington refused to accept Moscow's condition that SDI research be confined to laboratories for a decade.

Today, the issue of ballistic missile defense remains a major stumbling block in U.S.-Russian relations, stalling both greater cooperation between the U.S. and Russia in countering Iran's nuclear ambitions and efforts to negotiate further reductions in nuclear arms. Specifically, Moscow is insisting on "binding guarantees" that U.S. missile defenses will not target or affect Russia's strategic nuclear deterrent. In reality, current U.S. missile defense systems are capable only of defending against a limited number of primitive ballistic missiles (without sophisticated decoys), and thus could not effectively defend against a Russian nuclear missile attack. Instead, the unambiguous objective of current U.S. missile deployments is to defeat Iranian and North Korean missile threats and provide protection for U.S. forces and allies against those missile programs.

By GRAHAM ALLISON
Los Angeles Times

Graham Allison is director of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard's Kennedy School and a former assistant secretary of defense. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

At this impasse, what would Reagan do? One can be sure that he would be thinking well outside the box of conventional proposals now on the table. My bet is that he would offer the Russians not only transparency about U.S. missile defense systems, but actual shared control of those systems in a reconfigured deployment that would incorporate Russian as well as U.S. radar systems, and invite Russia to join the U.S. in deploying defenses against emerging nuclear threats. This proposal would also include major reductions in both U.S. and Russian strategic and tactical nuclear arsenals. And the prospect of serious, joint deployments that promised to neutralize the Iranian missile threat would certainly have a stunning impact in Tehran.

If Obama borrows a page from Reagan's playbook, Republicans in Washington who claim the 40th president's mantle would be shocked. But the burden would be theirs to explain why deploying missile defenses that would make the U.S. and our allies safer from attacks by Iran and North Korea is not in America's interest.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Susitna ferry a great deal for the CNMI

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Township) was stuck with a ferry they could not use from events that were beyond their control when the famous "Bridge to Nowhere" failed to become a reality in Alaska. The *Susitna* ferry is a prototype vessel that was built based on a partnership agreement between the Department of the Navy and the Susitna Borough to test the animation capabilities of the vessel in real time. With the cancellation of the bridge the Susitna Borough was not able to locate a docking site for the ferry which led to the final solution being to just sell the Ferry.

Unlike the misleading news reports that appear to be attempts to kill the hope of getting a ferry, the *Susitna* is a great deal for the CNMI because the Department of the Navy through the Federal Transportation Authority (FAT) established four different grants that accompanied the transfer of the ferry to the Susitna Borough. The first grant is to provide funding for converting the *Susitna* from a high-speed landing craft to a passenger vessel for public service. This grant would cover the removal of 80 percent of the ice breaking equipment that is bolted on and other changes to make the Susitna qualify as a Public Transportation Vessel.

The grant to purchase the *Susitna* covers all purchasing cost but does not include the actual delivery of the *Susitna* to the CNMI because the ferry was expected to be in Alaska where it is presently. The purchasing grant was offered because the recipient of the *Susitna* under the grant will continue the Navy's assessment by making regular reports to the Department of the Navy on the performance of this prototype vessel—it's a partnership simply put, not just a purchase. But the CNMI would be responsible for the delivery under the present grant. However, there are other possible means of getting the ferry to the CNMI like getting the military, especially the Department of the Navy to assist us with getting the vessel to the CNMI.

The grant to supplement the operation cost of the *Susitna* is another biggie. The Navy knew the cost of running this new technology would be high, which is why the operational grant was included in the package deal. The article about the *Susitna* using 375 gallons per hour was biased and misleading because it was based on all four engines performing at maximum capacity but the CNMI would be using only two of the engines at nominal capacity and the cost of fuel will be supplemented by the federal government in this partnership.

The grant to train local people was also included with the transfer or sale of the *Susitna* as the animation of the vessel is new and there are only a handful of people in the world trained and qualified to operate everything on this vessel—high-tech jobs for locals.

The federal government did not leave any stone unturned and covered all the bases for the recipient of the *Susitna* to be successful with their Public Service Ferry Operation. The *Susitna* is a great opportunity that the CNMI can't afford to lose.

Ambrose Bennett
Kagman

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly clear with a slight chance of showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly clear with a slight chance of showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°

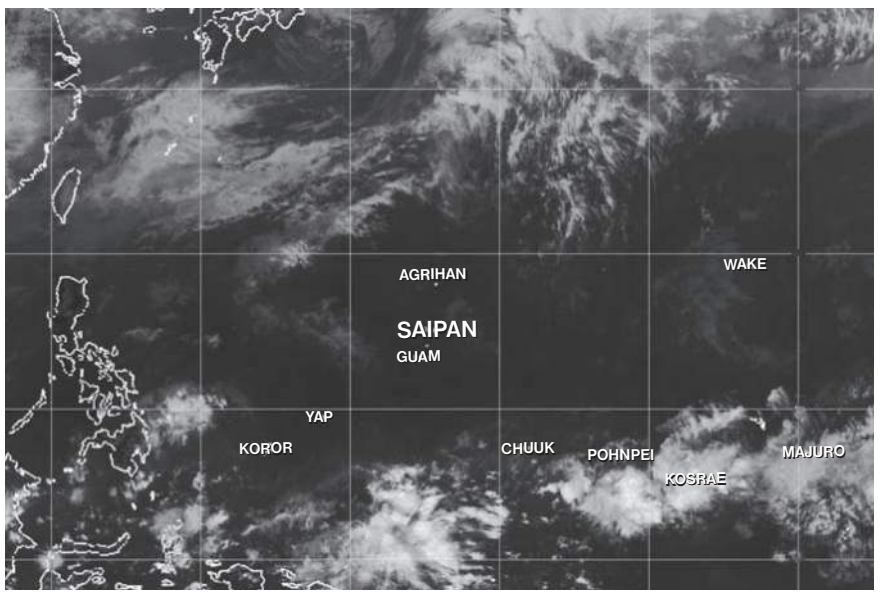
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼78
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲84	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲69	▼58
Beijing	Cloudy	▲49	▼42
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲76	▼72
Honolulu	Sunny	▲78	▼66
London	Cloudy	▲39	▼35
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲76	▼55
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲95	▼80
Melbourne	Sunny	▲69	▼49
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼70
New York	Sunny	▲46	▼31
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼48
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲51	▼38
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼49
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲63	▼53
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲69	▼51
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼56
Seoul	Sunny	▲66	▼41
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼53
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲53	▼34

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from west of Iwo To island at 25N140E to beyond 130E at 21N. Patchy clouds and rain are found along and northwest of the front to beyond 25N. Low-level convergence ahead of the cold front is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest of Iwo To island within 80 miles of a line from 19N133E to 23N141E. A trade-wind disturbance southeast of Yap is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of a line from 6N140E to 4N150E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across eastern Micronesia from east of Chuuk to the dateline between 3N and 8N from 154E to 180. A surface trough extends northward from 14N163E to 20N165E. Scattered showers are seen near Wake Island within 175 miles of a line from 15N163E to 20N166E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:15 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
9:41 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
2:29 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:00 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:11 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:10 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:09 AM	6:30 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:12 AM	12:59 PM
Friday	2:02 AM	1:57 PM
Saturday	2:50 AM	2:53 PM
Sunday	3:34 AM	3:47 PM
Monday	4:17 AM	4:39 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 4, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)

VLK1734	9:40am	3:55pm	5

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:45am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN

VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:55am	1:15am+1	2, 4, 7 via NRT
PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:05am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Good Friday Pilgrimage

PHOTOS By CLARISSA V. DAVID

The decades-old tradition of trudging the rugged terrain of Mt. Tapochao on Good Friday continues to be practiced on Saipan, attracting hundreds of Catholics and other Christian pilgrims who got up on the earlier side last March 29 to reach the island's highest elevation.

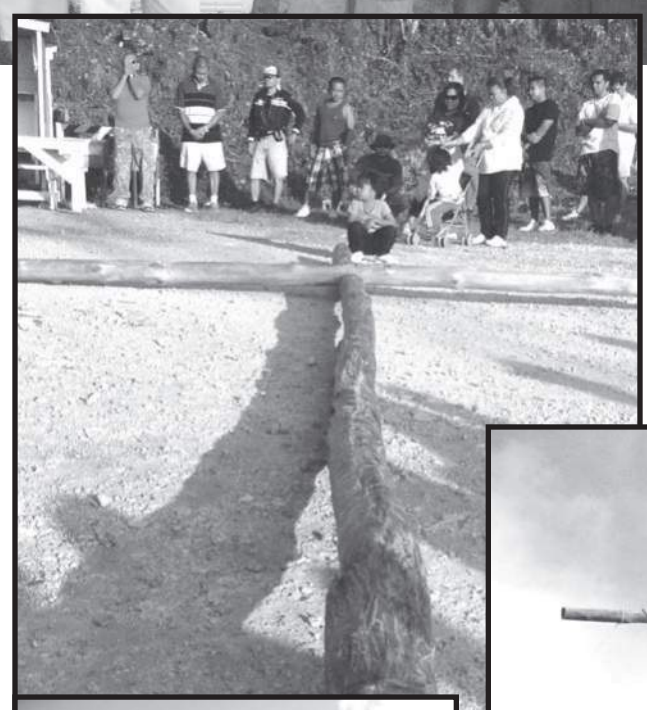
A man reflects on the last Station of the Cross set up by the Santa Remedios Church parishioners in observance of Good Friday on March 29.

A man and a woman read the prayer at one of the stations of the cross along the road to Mt. Tapochao on Good Friday.

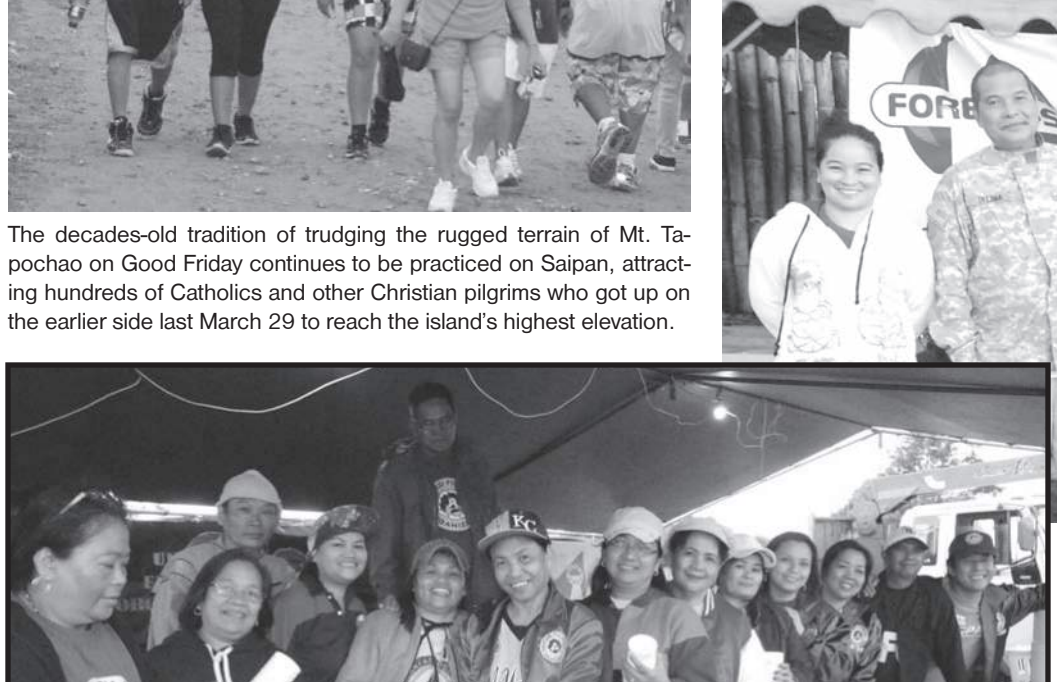
A woman takes a look at one of the Stations of the Cross while heading down from the peak of Mt. Tapochao on March 29, Good Friday.

Members of the Bicol Association in Northern Mariana Islands, who arrived at 11pm on Maundy Thursday at Mt. Tapochao to set up their Good Friday booth, smile for the camera.

Officers and members of the United Filipino Organization pose for a group photo by their booth at Mt. Tapochao on Good Friday, where they served hikers congee, boiled eggs, water, and coffee.



A young girl sits on one end of the giant wooden cross as she listens to the Liturgy of the Word at the Mt. Tapochao summit last March 29.



Good Friday devotees lay down on the ground the giant wooden cross which they carried from the base to the peak of Mt. Tapochao on Good Friday.

A man and woman say their prayers at the base of the monument of Christ located atop Mt. Tapochao last Good Friday.

Devotees and other volunteers help secure the giant wooden cross that commemorates the Passion and Death of Christ every Good Friday observance on Saipan.

Business

NKorea refuses to let SKoreans enter joint factory

By KIM YONG-HO and SAM KIM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

South Korean vehicles turn back their way as they were refused for entry to North Korea's city of Kaesong, at the customs, immigration and quarantine office in Paju, South Korea, near the border village of Panmunjom, Wednesday, April 3, 2013.

PAJU, South Korea (AP)—North Korea on Wednesday barred South Korean workers from entering a jointly run factory park just over the heavily armed border in the North, officials in Seoul said, a day after Pyongyang announced it would restart its long-shuttered plutonium reactor and increase production of nuclear weapons material.

The move to block South Koreans from going to their jobs at the Kaesong industrial complex, the last remaining symbol of detente between the rivals, comes amid increasing hostility from Pyongyang, which has threatened to stage nuclear and missile strikes on Seoul and Washington and has said that the armistice ending the 1950s Korean War is void.

Seoul's Unification Ministry spokesman Kim Hyung-suk said Pyongyang was allowing South Koreans to return home from Kaesong. Three workers returned Wednesday morning; dozens more were scheduled to return later. But Kim said about 480 South Koreans who had planned to travel to the park Wednesday were being refused entry.

North Korean authorities cited recent political circumstances on the Korean Peninsula when they delivered their decision to block South Korean workers from entering Kaesong, Kim said without elaborating.

It's the latest sign of deepening tensions on the Korean Peninsula. North Korea said Tuesday that it will quickly begin "readjusting and restarting" the facilities at its main Nyongbyon nuclear complex, including the plutonium reactor and a uranium enrichment plant. Both could produce fuel for nuclear weapons. Analysts saw the statement as Pyongyang's latest attempt to extract U.S. concessions by raising fears of war. Experts estimate reactivating the reactor could take anywhere from three months to a year.

The rising tide of threats in recent weeks are seen as efforts by the North to force new policies in Seoul, diplomatic talks with Washington and to increase domestic loyalty to young North Korean leader Kim Jong Un by portraying him as a powerful military commander.

North Korea is angry about ongoing South Korea-U.S. military drills and new U.N. sanctions over its Feb. 12 nuclear test, its third. The Korean Peninsula technically remains in a state of war because a truce, not a peace treaty, ended the Korean War. The United States stations 28,500 troops in South Korea as a deterrent to North Korea.

The North's plutonium reactor began operations in 1986 but was shut down as part of international nuclear disarmament talks in 2007 that have since stalled. Tuesday's nuclear announcement underscores worries about North Korea's timetable for building a nuclear-tipped missile that can reach the United States, although it is still believed to be years away from developing that technology.

The North's rising rhetoric has been met by a display of U.S. military strength, including flights of nuclear-capable bombers and stealth jets at the annual South Korean-U.S. military drills that the allies call routine but that North Korea claims are invasion preparations.

The Kaesong industrial park started producing goods in 2004 and has been an unusual point of cooperation in an otherwise hostile relationship between the Koreas.

North and South Korea do not allow their citizens to travel to the other country without approval, but an exception had previously been made each day for the South Koreans working at Kaesong.

About 120 South Korean firms run factories in the border town of Kaesong, with 53,000 North Koreans working there. Using North Korea's cheap, efficient labor, the Kaesong complex produced $470 million worth of goods last year.

Pyongyang threatened last week to shut down the park, which is run with mostly North Korean labor and South Korean know-how. It expressed anger over South Korean media reports that said North Korea hadn't yet shut the park because it is a source of crucial hard currency for the impoverished country.

In 2009, North Korea closed its border gate in anger over U.S.-South Korean military drills, leaving hundreds of South Korean workers stranded in Kaesong for several days. The park later resumed normal operations.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Report: Apple to release updated phone this summer

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple is set for a possible summer launch of the next iPhone, rather than a fall launch like the last two models, according to a report Tuesday in The Wall Street Journal. Apple Inc. is also working on a cheaper iPhone model that could win it some market share in developing countries, the paper said. It cited unnamed people "familiar with the device's production." The report is in line with the expectations of company watchers and Wall Street analysts. The iPhone 5 costs around $600, and while Apple maintains older iPhones in production, even those aren't cheap enough to compete effectively against low-end smartphones running Google Inc.'s Android software.

In India, dodging taxes is part of the game

NEW DELHI (AP)—In a country long defined by its poverty, it's easy now to find India's rich. They're at New Delhi's Emporio mall, where herds of chauffeur-driven Jaguars and Audis disgorge shoppers heading to the Louis Vuitton and Christian Louboutin stores. They're shopping for Lamborghinis in Mumbai. They're putting elevators in their homes and showing off collections of jewel-encrusted watches in Indian luxury magazines. They're buying real estate in comfortable but unpretentious neighborhoods—neighborhoods thought of as simply upper-middle-class just a couple years ago—where apartments now regularly sell for millions of dollars. They're just about everywhere. Unless it's income tax time. Then, suddenly, they barely exist.

Samoa airline introduces pay-by-weight pricing

By FILI SAGAPOLUTELE and NICK PERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (AP)—A tiny Samoa airline is giving passengers a big reason to lose weight: tickets sold not by the seat, but by the kilogram.

Samoa Air planned on Wednesday to start pricing its first international flights based on the weight of its passengers and their bags. Depending on the flight, each kilogram (2.2 pounds) costs 93 cents to $1.06.

That means the average American man weighing 195 pounds with a 35-pound bag would pay $97 to go one-way between Apia, Samoa, and Pago Pago, American Samoa. Competitors typically charge $130 to $140 roundtrip for similar routes.

The weight-based pricing is not new to the airline, which launched in June. It has been using the pricing model since November, but in January the U.S. Department of Transportation approved its international route between American Samoa and Samoa.

The airline's chief executive, Chris Langton, said Tuesday that "planes are run by weight and not by seat, and travelers should be educated on this important issue. The plane can only carry a certain amount of weight and that weight needs to be paid. There is no other way."

Langton, a pilot himself, said when he flew for other airlines, he brought up the idea to his bosses to charge by weight, but they considered weight as too sensitive an issue to address.

"It's always been the fairest way, but the industry has been trying to pack square pegs into round holes for many years," he said.

Travelers in the region already are weighed before they fly because the planes used between the islands are small, said David Vaeafe, executive director of the American Samoa Visitors Bureau. Samoa Air's fleet includes two nine-passenger planes for commercial routes and a three-passenger plane for an air taxi service.

Langton said passengers who need more room will be given one row on the plane to ensure comfort.

No let up for auto sales in March; pickups star

DETROIT (AP)—America is getting back to work, and it needs pickup trucks.

Strong truck demand in March drove U.S. auto sales to their highest monthly total since August 2007, as everyone from oil and gas producers to local home builders raced to replace the aging trucks they held onto during the recession. Overall auto sales rose 3.4 percent to 1.45 million, according to Autodata Corp.

"I think day-to-day business is the best it's been in five years," said Tim Parker, owner of a Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep-Ram dealer in Hot Springs, Ark. Parker recently joined a Chrysler program that helps him stock pickups so he has inventory ready when business owners come calling.

March is typically a good month for the auto industry. Many car buyers put tax refund checks toward a down payment. And Japanese automakers, whose fiscal year ends in March, often juice sales with deals to end the year on a high note.

But this year had additional incentives for buyers. Fuel prices ended the month lower than a year ago. The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits fell to a five-year low during March. Interest rates are low and home values are rising. And the stock market—which is a strong predictor of auto sales—closed the first quarter with the S&P 500 at an all-time high.

Still, the pace of growth has slowed from last year, when double-digit gains were commonplace as Japanese automakers came roaring back after the 2011 earthquake in Japan. Auto companies are settling in for a period of slower but sustained growth.

Cars with the latest designs are enticing buyers. The redesigned Nissan Altima sedan outsold the Toyota Camry, the perennial midsize king, in March by 100 vehicles. That hadn't happened since May 2011, according to Ward's AutoInfoBank. The redesigned Honda Accord, which went on sale at the end of last year, also came close to outselling the Camry, which was last redesigned in 2011.

Nation

Too early for 2016? Not for Hillary Clinton's fans

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton stayed on safe political ground Tuesday, advocating women's rights globally in a 12-minute speech, but that was enough to excite fans imploring the former first lady, senator and secretary of state to run again for president three years from now.

Clinton, perhaps as popular as ever in her 22 years in national politics, said she has "unwavering faith in the untapped potential of women and girls." She spoke at the Vital Voices Global Leadership Awards, at Washington's Kennedy Center. The event, highlighting efforts such as expanding education for girls and fighting domestic violence worldwide, marked her first public speech since ending her much-praised stint as secretary of state.

As members of the group Ready for Hillary cheered outside, the 2016 political buzz was inevitable. Vice President Joe Biden—another potential Democratic candidate—spoke later at the same event.

If Clinton has any jealousy, she didn't show it. She praised Biden effusively, especially for his role in Congress' recent renewal of the Violence Against Women Act.

Biden returned the compliment a half-hour later, after Clinton had left the stage, telling the mostly female audience of more than 2,000 that "there's no woman like Hillary Clinton."

AP

Supporters of Hillary Rodham Clinton demonstrate outside of the Kennedy Center in Washington, where the former Secretary of State is attending the Vital Voices Global Partnership 2013 Global Leadership Awards gala, Tuesday, April 2, 2013.

Biden said Clinton's declaration in China nearly two decades ago—"Women's rights are human rights," she said at the time—"still echoes forcefully around the world." Women everywhere, he said, "are entitled to every single opportunity that any man is."

Clinton, 65, has said she has no plans for a second presidential bid, but she hasn't ruled it out. Democrats argue among themselves whether she has the desire and energy to go through the grueling campaign process she knows so well. But many see her as a prohibitive favorite whose head start would be so big that other potential candidates might starve for funds and attention.

A Washington Post-ABC News poll in January found that 67 percent of Americans held a favorable view of Clinton. That's her highest rating since the poll began measuring her popularity in the 1990s. It spans her eight years in the Senate.

"It's hard to overstate the breadth and depth of enthusiasm for a Hillary run," said Doug Hattaway, a former Clinton campaign aide and now a Washington-based consultant. She built a national base of supporters in 2008, when she lost a hard-fought nomination fight to Barack Obama, and she's widely respected after her turn heading the State Department, Hattaway said.

"A lot of donors, volunteers and potential campaign workers will wait to hear what she decides before committing to other candidates," he said, although "anyone with their eye on 2016 is already working on it."

Mo Elleithee, a top spokesman for Clinton's 2008 campaign, said it's much too early to press her for an answer.

"My advice to everyone is to chill out," Elleithee said. "There's no need for all this breathless anticipation at this point," he said, and political activists should focus on next year's mid-term elections.

Noting that Clinton said she has no intention of running, he said, "I think that's where her head is." But he said he shares "the enthusiasm" for a Clinton candidacy.

There may be no one in America with a clearer view of what it takes to run for president.

Clinton was a highly visible adviser and defender of her husband, Bill, then the Arkansas governor, when he was elected president in 1992 in 1996. Her eight years as first lady included the excruciating Monica Lewinsky scandal and her husband's impeachment.

SC's ex-Gov. Sanford clears hurdle in comeback bid

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. (AP)—Former South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford on Tuesday cleared another hurdle in his bid for political redemption, defeating a former Charleston County council member to win the GOP nomination for the U.S. House seat he held for three terms.

"It's been a very long journey. And in that journey I am humbled to find ourselves where we find ourselves tonight," said Sanford, whose political career was derailed four years ago when, as sitting governor, he disappeared from the state only to return to acknowledge an extramarital affair with an Argentine woman.

Sanford

That woman, Maria Belen Chapur, and Sanford are now engaged. She appeared at Sanford's side during his victory speech, smiling and applauding the former governor, who thanked her for being long-suffering while he was campaigning. She did not address the crowd.

"I want to thank my God," Sanford said. "I used to cringe when somebody would say, `I want to thank my God' because at that point I would think this is getting uncomfortable. But once you really receive God's grace and (have) seen it reflected in others you stop and acknowledge that grace and the difference He has made in my life and in so many lives across this state and across this nation."

With all of the precincts reporting, Sanford had about 57 percent of the vote in the 1st District to 43 percent for Curtis Bostic, the former county council member. The candidates were vying in the GOP runoff after they finished as the top two vote-getters in a 16-way GOP primary last month.

Sanford will face Democrat Elizabeth Colbert Busch, the sister of comedian Stephen Colbert, and Green Party candidate Eugene Platt in a May special election.

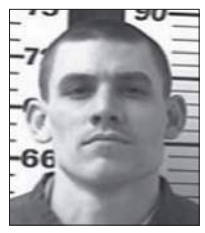
Colbert Busch released a statement late Tuesday saying "I look forward to a vigorous campaign that focuses on creating jobs, balancing our country's budget and choosing an independent-minded leader who shares the values of the great people of South Carolina."

Colo. suspect slipped ankle bracelet

DENVER (AP)—Evan Spencer Ebel ran up a long list of felony convictions before turning 21, joined a white supremacist gang behind bars, assaulted one prison guard and wrote that he fantasized about killing others.

Along the way, he benefited from a series of errors in the criminal justice system before he became a suspect in the slaying of Colorado's prisons chief and a pizza deliveryman.

He got out of prison four years early because of a clerical error in a rural courthouse. He slipped his ankle bracelet and violated the terms of his parole last month, but authorities didn't put out a warrant for his arrest until after the killings of pizza delivery man Nathan Leon and corrections chief Tom Clements.



Ebel

Ebel's streak came to an end on March 21 after he was pulled over by a sheriff's deputy in rural Texas. He died after the ensuing car chase and shootout. The gun he used was the same used to kill Clements; the trunk of Ebel's car held a Domino's pizza box and shirt.

"We have to do better in the future," Tim Hand, the head of the Department of Correction's parole division, said in an interview Tuesday. "It forces us to step back and see what things we need to examine."

Ebel entered Colorado prisons in 2005 after a series of assault and menacing charges that combined for an eight-year sentence. Within six months he landed in solitary confinement, and he bounced in and out of that restricted state until his Jan. 28 release.

In 2006, he slipped his handcuffs, punched a guard in the face and threatened to kill the man's family. Ebel agreed to plead guilty to the attack and receive up to four years more in prison, to be served after his sentence ended.

There was no question in the courtroom that Ebel was supposed to stay in prison well after 2013. "I just think four years is a little stiff, you know," he told Judge David Thorson, according to transcripts of the 2008 hearing released Tuesday. "By the time I get out, I'll be 33."

Ohio man who killed 6-month-old girl seeks mercy

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Condemned killer Steven Smith's argument for mercy isn't an easy one. Smith acknowledges he intended to rape his girlfriend's 6-month-old daughter but says he never intended to kill the baby.

The girl, Autumn Carter, died because Smith was too drunk to realize his assault was killing her, Smith's attorneys argued in court filings with the Ohio Parole Board, which heard the case Tuesday. And Ohio law is clear, they say: A death sentence requires an intent to kill the victim.

"The evidence suggests that Autumn's death was a horrible accident," Smith's attorneys, Joseph Wilhelm and Tyson Fleming, said in a written argument prepared for the board.

They continued: "Despite the shocking nature of this crime, Steve's death sentence should be commuted because genuine doubts exist whether he even committed a capital offense."

Smith, 46, was never charged with rape, meaning the jury's only choice was to convict or acquit him of aggravated murder, his attorneys say.

However, rape was included in the indictment against Smith as one of the factors making him eligible for the death penalty. Under Ohio law, an aggravated murder committed in the course of another crime—such as burglary, robbery, arson or the killing of a police officer or child—is an element that can make someone eligible for capital punishment.

The Richland County prosecutor said Smith continues to hide behind alcohol as an excuse and calls Smith's actions "the purposeful murder of a helpless baby girl."

Prosecutor James Mayer told the board in his written statement that the girl's injuries were consistent with a homicide that contradicts Smith's claim he didn't intend to kill her.

"The horrific attack upon Autumn Carter showed much more than Smith's stated purpose," Mayer said.

Mayer said Monday he didn't know why Smith wasn't charged with rape, but he said it wasn't part of a trial strategy.

The attack happened early in the morning of Sept. 29, 1998, in the Mansfield apartment of the girl's mother, Kaysha Frye, whom Smith had been dating about six months.

Asia

Malaysia PM dissolves Parliament

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's prime minister dissolved Parliament on Wednesday to call for general elections that will be contested between a coalition that has ruled for nearly 57 years and a resurgent opposition whose pledge to form a cleaner government has resonated with millions of citizens.

The polls are widely expected within a month after Prime Minister Najib Razak said in a nationally televised address that he had obtained royal consent from Malaysia's constitutional monarch to dissolve Parliament immediately.

Najib used his speech to urge more than 13 million eligible voters in Malaysia to give his National Front coalition a strong mandate and to reject opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's three-party alliance.

"Do not gamble with the fate of our children and grandchildren," Najib said, adding that he planned to travel to "all corners of the country" in the weeks ahead to speak to voters and win their confidence.

The Election Commission is expected to meet within a week to set a polling date and determine when formal campaigning can begin. The National Front's current five-year mandate had been scheduled to end April 30.

At stake are 222 seats in Parliament and control of 12 of Malaysia's 13 states. The National Front won 2008 elections with less than a two-thirds parliamentary majority, its poorest results in more than five decades of uninterrupted rule since independence from Britain in 1957.

Anwar's office said he would make a statement in a news conference later Wednesday.

Najib marked exactly four years as prime minister Wednesday. He succeeded Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who was pressured to step down after being blamed for weak leadership that contributed to the National Front's 2008 electoral setback.

Anwar's opposition alliance wrested control of several states five years ago by pledging to curb long-entrenched problems including corruption and racial discrimination.

Najib has intensified efforts to win back support with measures such as channeling more funds to the poor and abolishing security laws that were widely considered repressive.

Most analysts believe Najib's coalition will still have the upper hand because of its support in predominantly rural constituencies that hold the key to a large number of Parliament's seats.

But Anwar's opposition still has a chance, said Wan Saiful Wan Jan, who heads the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs, a Malaysian think tank.

"I don't think (the opposition) will actually win, but the possibility is certainly bigger than before" in 2008, Wan Saiful said. "It will be a make-or-break election for Najib. If Najib doesn't perform better than in 2008, what moral authority does he have to remain in power?"

Militants kills 7, kidnap 4 in attack in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Several dozen militants armed with assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades attacked a power grid station in northwestern Pakistan before dawn Tuesday, killing seven people and taking four hostage, police said.

The attack on the outskirts of Peshawar city occurred at around 2 a.m., said the local police chief in the area, Granullah Khan. The militants first killed two people at the scene of the attack and took nine with them, he said.

The militants then killed five of the hostages as they were fleeing and were pursued by police, said the police chief. The bodies were found about a kilometer (half a mile) away from the grid station. Four of the abducted were still missing.

The dead included three policemen and four government power workers, said Khan. The men still missing are all power workers.

The grid that was attacked is located near Khyber, part of Pakistan's semiautonomous tribal region bordering Afghanistan, the main sanctuary for the Taliban in the country. It supplies electricity to a large part of Peshawar, and many areas of the city were still without power on Tuesday morning because the station was damaged in the attack.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. But Taliban militants waging a bloody insurgency against the government have staged scores of attacks against security officials, government personnel and civilians.

The Pakistani military has launched dozens of operations against the Taliban in the tribal region, but the militants continue to carry out frequent attacks. The group has also made recent gains in an area of Khyber called the Tirah Valley, which potentially provides them easier access to Peshawar.

There are concerns the militants could step up attacks in the run-up to parliamentary elections on May 11 in an attempt to derail the vote.

ASIAN BRIEFS

16 Taiwanese nabbed in PH on fraud charge

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine official says 16 Taiwanese have been arrested in connection with an online scam aimed at stealing money from mostly Chinese and Taiwanese retirees. The head of the Computer Crimes Division of the Philippines' National Bureau of Investigation, Ronald Aguto, said Wednesday that members of the group pretended to be bank employees and called up victims and got them to reveal their account numbers. He said others pretended to be prosecutors and convinced victims into settling a non-existent complaint by depositing money into a syndicate's account.

Marine abducted, shot dead in Thailand's south

HAT YAI, Thailand (AP)—Police say a marine private has been abducted and shot dead in Thailand's insurgency-plagued south. Police Lt. Ratchasit Luelan says eight masked men wearing military-style outfits kidnapped 24-year-old Ma-ila Tohlu from his house in Narathiwat's Rue So district on Monday night. He said Wednesday that the marine's body was found behind a mosque in Pattani province Tuesday night. Authorities said he was blindfolded and shot in the head while his hands were tied. Marine Cmdr. Thammanoon Wanna said the motive for

World

Rape, kidnap of tourists feed Rio safety fears

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—A late night outing turned into a six-hour-long nightmare after an American woman was gang raped and beaten aboard a public transit van while her handcuffed French boyfriend looked on helplessly, in an incident that's shocked this resort city as it gears up to host next year's World Cup and the 2016 Olympics.

The police response to the attack was swift: The three alleged perpetrators, aged 20 to 22, have all been taken into custody, and investigators are combing databases to determine whether the men might have been behind any other crimes.

Many still ask whether Rio authorities, who have succeeded in cracking down on much of the city's drug violence, are up to the task of protecting the waves of tourists expected to flood the city during the upcoming double-header of mega-events. Some 2 million people are also expected to flock to the city in late July for World Youth Day, a Roman Catholic pilgrimage that Pope Francis is scheduled to attend.

Some observers said the attack came as a particular shock given that safety has improved at least in the city's tourist-friendly, seaside South Zone neighborhoods. Foreigners and moneyed local residents who even three or four years ago would have hesitated to hail a taxi in the street or walk around after dark now do both without thinking twice.

AP

Suspects Wallace Aparecido Souza Silva, left, Carlos Armando Costa dos Santos, center, and Jonathan Foudakis de Souza are presented to the press at the Special Police Unit for Tourism Support (DEAT) after being arrested for allegedly attacking tourists in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Tuesday, April 2, 2013.

"No one expects to be attacked in Disneyland, handcuffed and roughed up," Globo newspaper quoted Alfredo Lopes, the head of an association representing Brazil's hotel sector. "Copacabana is our Disneyland."

Yet it was in that very beachfront neighborhood, full of senior citizens in bikinis by day but seedier by night, that the two foreigners hailed one of the fleet of public transit vans often used as a speedier alternative to buses. Police investigating the case say the two foreigners, both in their early-20s, were headed shortly after midnight Saturday to Lapa, a popular downtown nightlife hotspot where Rio's youth converges on clubs, bars and samba venues.

UN adopts treaty to regulate global arms trade

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly approved the first international treaty regulating the multibillion-dollar global arms trade Tuesday, after a more than decade-long campaign to keep weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists, warlords, organized crime figures and human rights violators.

Loud cheers erupted in the assembly chamber as the electronic board flashed the final vote: 154 in favor, 3 against and 23 abstentions.

"This is a victory for the world's people," U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said. "The Arms Trade Treaty will make it more difficult for deadly weapons to be diverted into the illicit market. ... It will be a powerful new tool in our efforts to prevent grave human rights abuses or violations of international humanitarian law."

The United States, the world's biggest arms exporter, voted yes.

Iran, North Korea and Syria—all facing arms embargoes—cast the only no votes. They argued, among other things, that the agreement favors major arms suppliers like the U.S. over importers that need weapons for self-defense.

Russia and China, which are also major arms exporters, abstained along with India and Indonesia, while nuclear-armed Pakistan voted in favor. Many Arab countries, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Qatar, abstained, while Lebanon voted yes.

Never before has there been a treaty regulating the global arms trade, which is estimated to be worth $60 billion today and which Amnesty International predicts will exceed $100 billion in the next four years.

"Today's victory shows that ordinary people who care about protecting human rights can fight back to stop the gun lobby dead in its tracks, helping to save countless lives," said Frank Jannuzi, deputy executive director of Amnesty International USA.

"The voices of reason triumphed over skeptics, treaty opponents and dealers in death to establish a revolutionary treaty that constitutes a major step toward keeping assault rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and other weapons out of the hands of despots and warlords who use them to kill and maim civilians, recruit child soldiers and commit other serious abuses."

Francis marks anniversary of John Paul II death

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis prayed Tuesday before the tomb of Pope John Paul II on the eighth anniversary of the beloved pontiff's death in what the Vatican said was evidence of Francis' "profound spiritual continuity" with popes past.

In his three weeks as pope, Francis has jolted the Catholic Church with several gestures that broke with papal tradition, including renouncing certain liturgical vestments, choosing to live in the Vatican hotel rather than the papal apartments, and washing the feet of a Muslim woman during a Holy Thursday ritual re-enacting Jesus Christ's washing of his apostles' feet.

But Francis has also visited with his immediate predecessor, Benedict XVI, and spoken on the phone with him at least three times. And on Monday, he visited the tomb of St. Peter, the first pontiff, which is located in the necropolis underneath St. Peter's Basilica.

On Tuesday, he waited until the basilica was closed to the general public to visit the tomb of John Paul II, the Polish pope who died in 2005. The tomb is located in the St. Sebastian chapel, just inside the entrance of the basilica. He also prayed before the tombs of Popes Pius X and John XXIII.

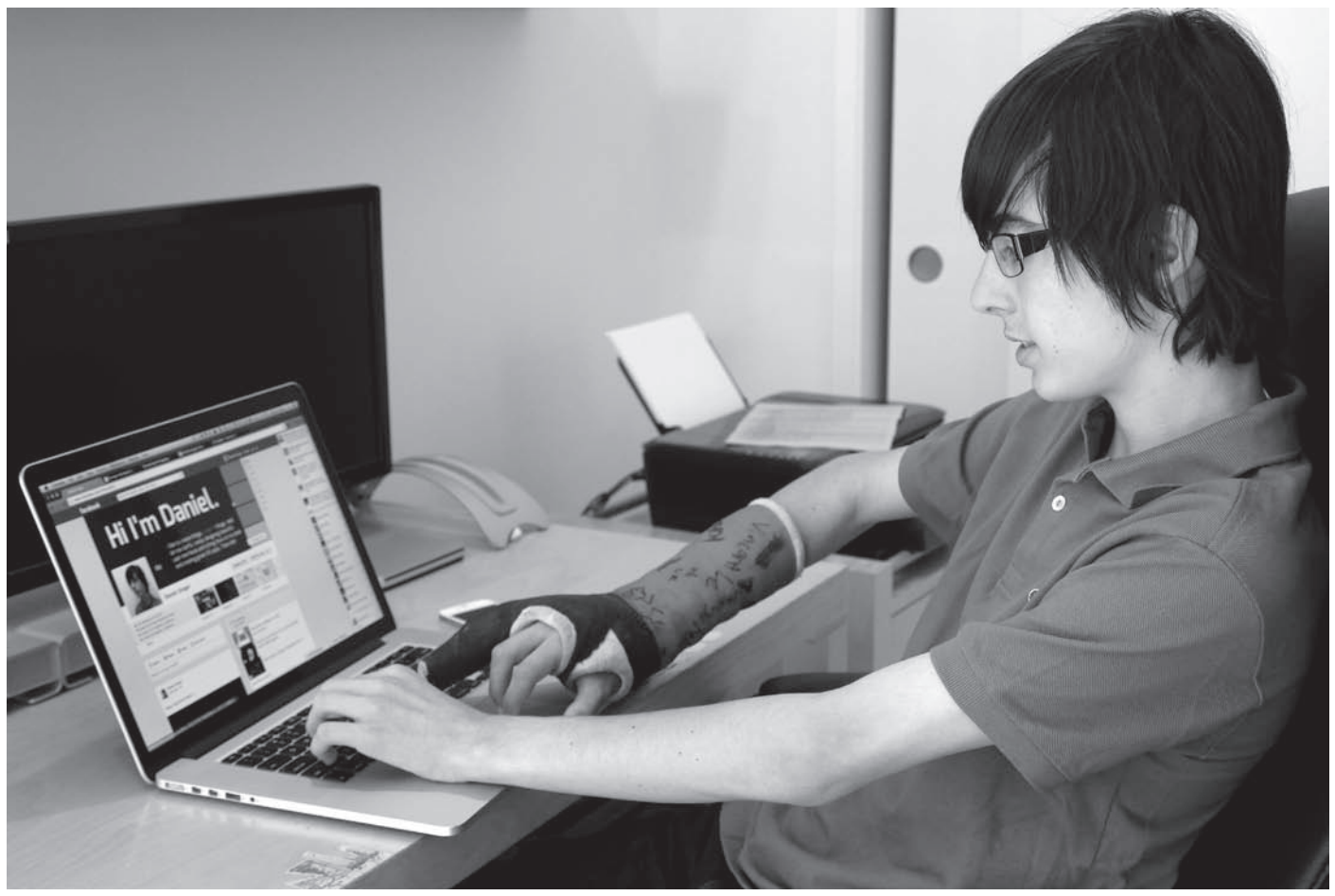
"As with the visit yesterday to the tomb of St. Peter and the Vatican grottoes, this evening's visit to the basilica expresses the profound spiritual continuity of the popes' petrine ministry, which Pope Francis lives and feels intensely, as he has shown repeatedly with his phone calls to his predecessor Benedict XVI," the Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said in a statement.

Traditionalist Catholics have been devastated by some of Francis' gestures, which they have seen as a rejection primarily of efforts by Benedict XVI to revive the pre-Vatican II tradition of the church, including much of the pomp of the papacy.

As a result, Francis' visit to the tomb of Pope Pius X was particularly significant. Pius X, who lived from 1835-1914, is known to some degree as the anti-modern pope: He wrote an encyclical on the dangers of "modernism" in church doctrine and is the namesake of the schismatic group of traditionalist Catholics, the Society of St. Pius X, with whom Benedict tried unsuccessfully to reconcile during his eight-year pontificate.

Focus

NEW YORK (AP)—To see what Facebook has become, look no further than the Hutzler 571 Banana Slicer.



AP

This Monday, March 25, 2013 photo, shows Daniel Singer, 13. working at his computer in Los Angeles. Singer, thinks the average teenager wants to see new stuff on facebook. Singer says, Facebook is part of a daily routine. "Kind of like brushing your teeth," he says.

As **Facebook** matures, is it losing its edge?

Sometime last year, people began sharing tongue-in-cheek online reviews of the banana-shaped piece of yellow plastic with their Facebook friends. Then those friends shared with their friends. Soon, after Amazon paid to promote it, posts featuring the $3.49 utensil were appearing in even more Facebook feeds.

At some point, though, the joke got old. But there it was, again and again—the banana slicer had become a Facebook version of that old knock-knock joke your weird uncle has been telling for years.

The Hutzler 571 phenomenon is a regular occurrence on the world's biggest online social network, which begs the question: Has Facebook become less fun?

That's something many users—especially those in their teens and early 20s—are asking themselves as they wade through endless posts, photos "liked" by people they barely know and spur-of-the moment friend requests. Has it all become too much of a chore? Are the important life events of your closest loved ones drowning in a sea of banana slicer jokes?

"When I first got Facebook I literally thought it was the coolest thing to have. If you had a Facebook you kind of fit in better, because other people had one," says Rachel Fernandez, 18, who first signed on to the site four or five years ago.

And now? "Facebook got kind of boring," she says.

Chatter about Facebook's demise never seems to die down, whether it's talk of "Facebook fatigue," or grousing about how the social network lost its cool once grandma joined. The Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project recently found that some 61 percent of Facebook users had taken a hiatus from the site for reasons that range from "too much gossip and drama" to "boredom." Some respondents said there simply isn't enough time in their day for Facebook.

If Facebook Inc.'s users leave, or even check in less frequently, its revenue growth would suffer. The company, which depends on targeted advertising for most of the money it makes, booked revenue of $5.1 billion in 2012, up from $3.7 billion a year earlier.

But so far, for every person who has left permanently, several new people have joined up. Facebook has more than 1 billion users around the world. Of these, 618 million sign in every day.

Indeed, Fernandez hasn't abandoned Facebook. Though the Traverse City, Mich., high school senior doesn't look at her News Feed, the constant cascade of posts, photos and viral videos from her nearly 1,800 friends, she still uses Facebook's messaging feature to reach out to people she knows, such as a German foreign exchange student she met two years ago.

Fernandez uses Facebook in the same way that people use email or the telephone. But she prefers using Facebook to communicate because everyone she knows is there. That's a sign that Facebook's biggest asset may also be its biggest challenge.

"We have never seen a social space that actually works for everybody," says danah boyd, who studies youth culture, the Internet and social media as a senior researcher at Microsoft Research. "People don't want to hang out with everybody they have ever met."

Might Facebook go the way of email? Those who came of age in the "You've got mail" era can reminisce fondly about arriving home from school and checking their AOL accounts to see if anyone sent them an electronic message. Boyd, who is 35 (and legally spells her name with no capitalization), recalls being a teenager and "thinking email is the best thing ever."

Few people share that sentiment these days. Ian Bogost, professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology, recently listed email alongside "Blood, frogs, lice, flies, pestilence, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, death of the firstborn" in a Facebook post.

"I was just going through my daily email routine, reflecting on the fact that it feels like batting down a wall of locusts," Bogost says.

Although email has gone from after-school treat to a dull routine in the space of 20 years, no one is ready to ring its death knell just yet. And similarly, Facebook's lost luster doesn't necessarily foreshadow its obsolescence.

"I don't see teenagers leaving in droves," boyd says. "I just don't see it being their site of passion."

In early March, Facebook unveiled a big redesign to address some of its users' most pressing gripes. The retooling, which is already available to some people, is intended to get rid of the clutter that's been a complaint among Facebook users for some time.

Facebook surveys its users regularly about their thoughts on the site. Jane Leibrock, whose title at Facebook is user experience researcher, says it was about a year ago that she noticed people were complaining about "clutter" in their feeds. Leibrock asked them what they meant. It turns out that the different types of content flowing through people's News Feeds—links, ads, photos, status updates, things people "liked" or commented on—were "making it difficult to focus on any one thing," she says. "It might have even been discouraging them from finding new content."

The new design seeks to address the issue. There is a distinct feed for "all friends," another for different groups of friends, one just for photos, and one for pages that users follow. As a result, says Chris Struhar, the lead engineer on the new design, the new feeds give people a way to see everything that's going on.

"The amount of stories you have available to see has continued to increase," Struhar says. "What we try to do now is give you more control over what stories you see in your feed."

With that kind of control, the company hopes people will spend more time on the site and share more information about themselves so companies can target them better with advertisements.

Paul Friedman, a 59-year-old dentist in New York City, says he's using Facebook less now than when he first signed on four years ago, but he's not sure if the site has "become less interesting or that I am just less interested in it," he says.

"I think that it might have seemed more interesting in the past because it was a new `forum,'" Friedman says. "Now that it is not new, it takes more unique content to make it interesting."

That said, Friedman still uses Facebook to see if friends are organizing events, such as music gigs or yoga classes, or to check out interesting YouTube videos. He says seeing the same jokes reappear doesn't really bother him.

"Ninety-nine percent of it is a waste of time anyway," he says. "If it wasn't for the one percent, I'd close my account."

When it comes to people of a certain age, Friedman may be in the minority. Tammy Gordon, vice president of the AARP's social media team, says the 50-plus set is just now settling into Facebook. The organization's own Facebook page grew from 80,000 fans to a million last year. This age group is growing the fastest because older people tend to be latecomers to Facebook. According to a recent Pew survey, 32 percent of people 65 or older use social networking sites, compared with 83 percent of those 18 to 29.

"They are not necessarily at that point where some of the younger generation is, where they have News Feed overload," Gordon says.

Robert Worden, who is 62 and has nearly 1,100 friends on Facebook, isn't overwhelmed. He says he got on Facebook two or three years ago primarily to establish a relationship with his estranged son, whom he didn't see for a quarter century before he found him on Facebook.

Through his son, he also found out he had a granddaughter, who has been adopted and used Facebook to find her biological family when she turned 18. They are now all connected.

Worden, who lives in Paducah, Ky., says he probably wouldn't have found his son were it not for Facebook, never mind his granddaughter. He also reconnected with people from his Memphis, Tenn., neighborhood using Facebook—people he had not seen in half a century. The neighborhood, he says, "literally fell apart" in the 1960s, "and we had never been able to get back together."

"So someone said `why don't you start a Facebook page?" he says. The group recently had its first reunion. Fifty people showed up.

Worden says Facebook is his "major communication tool to the world."

"Other people use news and I don't find the nightly news or daily news to be adequate," he says. "On Facebook I can actually hear from people who are living in the places where things are happening, and I can get instant information."

Daniel Singer is 13 and, according to his public Facebook profile, he enjoys "designing beautiful user interfaces and sitting down at my desk and creating great iOS apps." Last year, the eighth-grader created YouTell, a site that lets people ask for anonymous feedback from friends. You can use Facebook to log in, or email. As someone who designs applications, Singer calls Facebook's graphical design "brilliant."

Environment

Foam cups, containers eyed amid NYC recycling push

NEW YORK (AP)—Could plastic foam containers get 86'd from the menu of takeout food options in the nation's biggest city?

A sanitation official said Wednesday the idea is under discussion but it's too soon to say what will get recommended in an upcoming report on increasing recycling rates.

Polystyrene foam, sometimes sold under the brand name Styrofoam, has long been popular among restaurateurs for lightweight, heat-retaining containers, but environmentalists complain it takes years to break down in trash. Some communities around the country have barred eateries from using to-go containers made of it.

As New York City officials prepare a report on how to double the city's residential recycling rate, the foam is "one of the things that you have to look at," Department of Sanitation Deputy Commissioner Ron Gonen said by phone Wednesday.

"It may or may not be a component of the overall plan," due in a few weeks, said Gonen, who oversees recycling and environmental sustainability initiatives.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg last year set a goal of recycling 30 percent of the city's household trash by 2017, up from about 15 percent now. City Hall is "always willing to take a look at new ways to reduce waste that can't be recycled or reused," spokesman John McCarthy said Wednesday.

It costs the city an average of $86 per ton to landfill some 2 million tons of garbage a year; by contrast, the city nets a payment of at least $10 a ton for recycling paper and about $14 a ton for recycling glass and plastic, Gonen said.

AP

In this Nov. 30, 2012 file photo, a Tibetan Buddhist monk holds his styrofoam cup as he waits for tea during a religious talk by the Dalai Lama at the Tsuglakhang temple in Dharmsala, India.

"The environmental benefits of recycling are obvious," he said. "What we're trying to do is make clear to everyone why it's important from an economic perspective."

His agency is looking at a range of ideas for boosting recycling and trimming trash. One notion could be expanding test programs for separating and collecting organic waste, for instance.

Some towns and cities from Seattle to Brookline, Mass., have ordered eateries to stop using polystyrene foam cups and containers. Supporters have said such bans cut down on trash and keep the foam products out of landfills, while opponents have said the measures are overreaching and customers who don't like such containers can choose restaurants that don't use them.

A similar proposal has stalled in New York's City Council in recent years, and restaurateurs aren't eager to see it take on new life.

"We shouldn't start banning products until we have done a more full analysis of the costs associated, not only with government but for small businesses," New York State Restaurant Association spokesman Andrew Moesel said Wednesday. "Now is not the time to continue to put more regulations and cost burdens on an industry that is already struggling to make a profit."

Northeast drilling boom threatens forest wildlife

By KEVIN BEGOS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Hawks swoop in and gobble up songbirds. Raccoons feast on nests of eggs they never could have reached before. Salamanders and wildflowers fade away, crowded out by invasive plants that are altering the soil they need to thrive.

Like a once-quiet neighborhood cut up by an expressway and laced with off ramps, northeastern forests are changing because of the pipelines crisscrossing them amid the region's gas drilling boom, experts say.

Environmentalists have loudly worried that hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, may threaten water and air, though the Obama administration and many state regulators say the practice is safe when done properly.

Threats to wildlife have flown largely under the radar. But as studies detail plans for thousands of miles of new pipelines and related infrastructure, the dangers to biologically rich forests that have rebounded since vast clear-cutting in the 1800s are taking on new urgency.

"If you wanted to create a perfect storm for biological invasion, you would do what the energy companies are doing in north-central Pennsylvania," said Kevin Heatley, an ecologist with the national firm Biohabitats who works to restore areas that have been damaged by human activity. "You can only put so many bloody parking lots in the woods."

Energy companies, which say they are being responsible stewards of the land, have rushed to unlock the natural gas lying in the shale beneath Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. The gas has lowered energy costs, allowed the U.S. to lessen reliance on foreign energy and provided private landowners who sit atop well sites with a gold mine in royalties. New York, which also has large reserves, is trying to decide whether to allow fracking.

To get the gas to market, hundreds of miles of pipeline are being laid along clear-cut forest "tunnels" sometimes dozens of yards wide.

The new energy development is "almost a spider web coming down to the forest," said Nels Johnson, of the Pennsylvania chapter of The Nature Conservancy, which estimates the state could see thousands of miles of new pipelines over the next two decades.

Even northeastern states that have put a hold on fracking aren't immune, because many import natural gas. The U.S. Energy Information Administration found that 245 miles of new pipelines were laid in the Northeast last year, and that figure is projected to grow.

Wind turbine development poses similar threats, too. The Nature Conservancy says Pennsylvania already has more than 600 of the giant blades, with the potential for thousands more in coming decades.

The total acreage taken up by the pipelines, wind projects and related development isn't that large, but the open spaces they create allow predators and invasive species to permeate a canopy of trees that once kept them at bay.

It's not hypothetical, scientists say. Studies and observations have documented invasions. And just as with humans, the uninvited guests change the neighborhood.

Forest fragmentation opens the door to invasive species such as the cowbird, a type of blackbird that normally prefers open land, said Bridget Stutchbury, a biologist at York University in Toronto who studies forest songbirds.

"The female cowbird sneaks around the forest, laying her egg in other species' nests," Stutchbury said. Forest birds such as thrushes and warblers don't realize the egg isn't theirs and expend energy raising chicks from another species in what she called a "nifty strategy for child-rearing."

The droppings that cowbirds and other invaders leave behind can also contain seeds from invasive plants that will sprout, spread and ultimately change the soil so much that some forest salamanders and wildflowers can't survive, experts note.

A report by the U.S. Geological Survey, released last week, found that in Pennsylvania's Susquehanna County, at the heart of the drilling boom, the number of patches or sections of forest increased by about 156 between 2001 and 2010, with Marcellus Shale drilling and related pipelines responsible for most of the change.

The energy industry said that it welcomes original research, but that it should be seen in context.

The Geological Survey report, said Patrick Creighton, a spokesman for the Marcellus Shale Coalition, an industry group, found that oil and gas activity affected less than 1 percent of the forest area in Allegheny and Susquehanna counties.

That number may seem small, but experts say it's a cause for concern, nonetheless.

"As an ecologist, you can look at that and say, wow, there are going to be changes," said Terry Slonecker, the researcher who authored the USGS report, noting it's too early to know where fragmentation has gone too far.

There is concern even at the numbers the USGS found, Stutchbury said, noting that without serious reforestation efforts, "we can anticipate really big impacts not just on birds, but all these forest critters."

Creighton, of the drilling coalition, said companies are sensitive to the issue.

"Well sites and pipeline right of ways are temporary construction projects on mostly private land that will be reclaimed after work is complete," he said.

The company KinderMorgan is building a gas pipeline extension in northeastern Pennsylvania that has attracted protests from environmental groups. Spokesman Richard Wheatley said that the company follows the guidance of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for all interstate pipeline projects and that other state and federal agencies can be involved, too.

"Once a project is placed in service, companies follow up with additional environmental and safety monitoring/inspection and remediation," Wheatley said in an email.

Heatley, the ecologist, said that "not one" of the energy companies drilling in the area has a long-term restoration plan for sensitive deep-forest environments, and that permits usually require only minimal restoration, such as planting grasses.

Still, the reality is that modern life demands resources and energy, and even the alternatives—such as wind turbines—can threaten forests, too.

The Nature Conservancy is examining potential effects from gas drilling and wind turbines on an eight-state region from New York to Tennessee. That report is due out later this year. The group notes that old and new energy sources have both promise and risk.

Careful planning and reforestation efforts could reduce the effects of pipelines, wind turbines and other human activity, scientists said. For example, multiple pipelines could go on one right of way, or wind turbines might go on land already barren because of old coal mining.

Planting native shrubs in the pipeline pathways, which need to remain treeless to avoid root damage to pipes and to give maintenance crews access, would be better than just grass, the Nature Conservancy noted.

Why should anyone care, Heatley asked, whether forest creatures get replaced by invasive plants and animals that can better tolerate human activity?

To see crows, opossums and squirrels, "you can go anywhere," he said, and in the Northeast it's easy to find trees, but large blocks of deep forest are rare. "It's a unique asset."

Life & Style

Will Zumba instructor sell her steamy story?

KENNEBUNK, Maine (AP)—Zumba instructor and single mom moonlights as hooker.

From the start, the case against Alexis Wright read like the TV Guide synopsis for one of those steamy Lifetime made-for-television movies.

There was Wright, the raven-haired fitness instructor who taught Zumba to soccer moms in a picturesque New England town while leading a double life as a prostitute with a customer list that was said to include prominent people, all of whom were secretly videotaped in the act.

There was also the business partner who watched via Skype from 100 miles away. The pizza delivery guy who got an eyeful when Wright dropped her towel. And the tenants in Wright's building who got suspicious about all the moaning and groaning.

Whether her tale makes it to the small screen remains to be seen. Wright's lawyer isn't saying what her client intends to do. But there is nothing specifically in state law—and nothing in the plea bargain she reached with prosecutors—that prevents her from selling her story, whether in the form of an interview, a book or a script.

And there is little doubt it has a certain appeal.

"Small-town prostitution ring? There's something about that that smells of a made-for-TV movie," said Peter S. Fischer, one of the creators of the TV show "Murder, She Wrote," which starred Angela Lansbury as a mystery writer and sleuth in fictional Cabot Cove, Maine. "It's a highly melodramatic subject, and the juxtaposition of putting it in a small town, whether it's Illinois or Indiana or Wyoming, that's interesting."

AP

Alexis Wright appears with her attorney, Sarah Churchill, Friday, March 29, 2013 in Cumberland County Court, in Portland, Maine.

Wright, 30, pleaded guilty to prostitution and other crimes Friday under an agreement that calls for 10 months in jail. She also must pay more than $57,000 in restitution and fines. Sentencing is set for May 31.

In Kennebunk, a seaside village of sea captains' mansions, beaches and 10,000 people, many are fed up with all the publicity from the scandal and relieved that the case is finally drawing to a close so that they can focus on more important matters, like the May Day Festival.

"That's one book or movie that I won't see!" said Linda Johnson, who has lived in Kennebunk for 38 years.

But Joyce Bagshaw, who knew Wright and now runs the Zumba studio, said plenty of people around town still want to know what really went on.

"I hope she gets the opportunity to tell her story because I'm curious. I think everyone is," she said. "There's still a truth that Alexis hasn't been able to tell."

During the evenings, Wright led dance classes at her studio. By day, with the curtains closed, she worked as a prostitute in the studio, her apartment and a rented office. She recorded the sex acts while her business partner watched from afar.

Their indictments last fall scandalized the town and touched off a guessing game as to which neighbors or co-workers might be among the 140-plus names in Wright's ledger. The 66 people charged so far with engaging Wright's services include a former mayor, a high school hockey coach, a minister, a lawyer and a firefighter.

"The truth is the story could be a big zero or a big sensation. That would depend more on the details that emerge and whether she chooses to hire professionals to guide her," said Michael Levine, a Hollywood media expert and author.

'Fifty Shades' musical is hornball heaven

AP

This theater publicity image released by David Gersten & Associates shows Matthew Brian Bagley, left, and Laurie Elizabeth Gardner during a performance of "Cuff Me: The Fifty Shades of Grey (Unauthorized) Musical Parody," in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Shuffle under some Star of David stained glass windows and a rack of prayer shawls in a corner of the off-Broadway Actors Temple Theatre for this high-volume command at the start of its latest show:

"Strap in! Strap on! And if it vibrates, put it between your legs!"

There may not be enough exclamation points—or groans, depending on your fan status—for "Cuff Me: The Fifty Shades of Grey (Unauthorized) Musical Parody," one of a few stage spoofs to take on the naughty books in song, and the first to hit New York.

The rough-sex romp, featuring a half-wit Anastasia Steele and a flyswatter-lovin' Christian Grey (yes, I said flyswatter) is aimed squarely at the Zumba set. There's actual Zumba in it, along with plenty of digs about the bad writing and bizarre plot twists of "Fifty" writer E L James.

Yet on the first night of previews last week, "Cuff Me" managed to fill the 170-seat theater that doubles as a synagogue with a long history of tending to the spiritual needs of famous, funny Jews from Henny Youngman to the Three Stooges.

Producer Tim Flaherty has a history of keeping an eye out for his higher power, having already put on the one-nun comedy "Late Nite Catechism" in the basement of a Lutheran church. "For me, it's almost like circling back. I'm always looking for god's help," he said.

The show, written by three improv dudes from Bible Belt Virginia, relies heavily on parody lyrics set to predictable pop songs with "Fifty"-esque titles: Rihanna's "S&M," Madonna's "Like a Virgin," Carly Rae Jepsen's "Call Me Maybe," Britney Spears' "... One More Time," the Divinyls' "I Touch Myself."

Oh, and there's a bit of "If I Were a Rich Man" from "Fiddler on the Roof," sung by one Willy Blowman, a swish lawyer in a flashy yellow suit.

In Loving Memory of
Libby Jo Carpenter
Nov. 23, 1958 – Mar. 28, 2013
In her new life, she now joins her:
Father: James Carpenter
Mother: Mary Elizabeth Carpenter
She will be missed by her:
Common-Law Husband: Edward T. Benavente
Children & Grandchildren: Roman Edward & Denise Benavente (Roman Kyle, Noah John, Kekoa Patrick & Malia Elizabeth)
Skyler James Benavente (Jianni Damon)
Sage Elizabeth Benavente & Angel Palacios (Alanna Jade)
Rebecca Castro & James Reyes (Deveyanne, Becklynn, James Jr.)
Step-Mother: Mary Louise Carpenter
Brother & Sister: Randy Carpenter & Terri Carpenter
Step-Brothers & Sister: Wayne Herr, Gary Herr and Wendy Lundgren
Brothers & Sisters-in-Law: Melvia & Oscar / Diego & Vicky / Anthony & Annie / Ronald & Zelma / Peggy & Jack / Melina & Jeffrey
Funeral services will be held on Friday, April 5, 2013. Viewing at CHC chapel from 7:30 am to 9:30 am.
Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am at Kristo Rai Church followed by interment services at Tanapag cemetery where she will be at peaceful rest.

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The Host

Friday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday & Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Cast: Saoirse Ronan, Max Irons, Jake Abel
Genre: Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
When a body-snatching alien infiltrates a group of human rebels and takes over the soul of Melanie (played by Saoirse Ronan), it begins to feel bits of her personality coming through in this Inferno adaptation of the best-selling novel from Twilight's Stephenie Meyer.

Tyler Perry's Temptation

Friday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday & Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Cast: Jurnee Smollett-Bell, Vanessa Williams
Genre: Drama • Rated PG 13

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D

Friday	1:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	7:25	
Monday & Thursday		7:25	

Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Bruce Willis, Channing Tatum
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 2D

Friday	4:25
Saturday	4:25
Sunday	4:25
Monday & Thursday	4:25

Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Bruce Willis, Channing Tatum
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13

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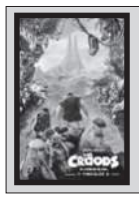
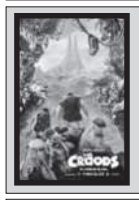


The Croods 3D

Friday	1:15	7:15	
Saturday	1:15	7:15	
Sunday	1:15	7:15	
Monday & Thursday		7:15	

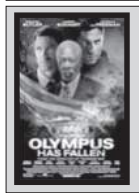
Cast: Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage, Ryan Reynolds
Genre: Children's/Family • Rated PG



The Croods 2D

Friday	4:15		9:30
Saturday	4:15		9:30
Sunday	4:15		
Monday & Tuesday	4:15		

Cast: Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage, Ryan Reynolds
Genre: Children's/Family • Rated PG



Olympus Has Fallen

Friday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday & Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Cast: Gerard Butler, Morgan Freeman, Aaron Eckhart
Genre: Action • Rated R

Oz The Great and Powerful 3D

Friday	1:00		7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00		7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00		7:00	
Monday & Thursday			7:00	

Cast: James Franco, Rachel Weisz, Michelle Williams
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG

Oz The Great and Powerful 2D

Friday	4:00
Saturday	4:00
Sunday	4:00
Monday & Tuesday	4:00

Cast: James Franco, Rachel Weisz, Michelle Williams
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG

Jack The Giant Slayer 2D

Friday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday & Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: Nicholas Hoult, John Kassir, Ewan McGregor
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13

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Michelle Obama praises Jackie Robinson movie

WASHINGTON (AP)—Michelle Obama said Tuesday that a new movie chronicling Jackie Robinson's rise through Major League Baseball, including the racial discrimination he endured while breaking the sport's color barrier in the 1940s, left her and the president "visibly, physically moved" after they saw it over the weekend.

The film, "42," also left the couple wondering "how on Earth did (the Robinsons) live through that. How did they do it? How did they endure the taunts and the bigotry for all of that time?" she said.

Mrs. Obama commented at a workshop for a group of high school and college students who saw the movie in the White House theater. Some of the students attend a Los Angeles charter school named for Robinson and others are undergraduate scholars in a program that bears the baseball great's name.

The students also participated in a question-and-answer session with Robinson's widow, Rachel, and members of the cast and crew, including Chadwick Boseman, who plays Robinson, Harrison Ford, who stars as former Brooklyn Dodgers General Manager Branch Rickey, and director-screenwriter Brian Helgeland.

President Barack Obama held a separate screening of "42" for the cast and crew Tuesday evening.

AP

First Lady Michelle Obama introduces a panel of the cast and crew of the movie "42", next to Rachel Robinson, widow of baseball great Jackie Robinson, before a workshop for high school and college students, Tuesday, April 2, 2013, in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington.

Mrs. Obama said everyone should see the movie, which opens nationwide April 12.

"I can say with all sincerity that it was truly powerful for us," she said. "We walked away from that just visibly, physically moved by the experience of the movie, of the story," and the "raw emotion" they felt afterward.

The first lady added that she was also "struck by how far removed that way of life seems today," noting how times have changed despite progress still to be made toward eliminating racial discrimination.

"You can't imagine the baseball league not being integrated. There are no more "Whites Only" signs posted anywhere in this country. Although it still happens, it is far less acceptable for someone to yell out a racial slur while you're walking down the street," she told the students. "That kind of prejudice is simply just not something that can happen in the light of day today."

After playing for the Negro Baseball League and the International League, Robinson became Major League Baseball's first black player on April 15, 1947, batting for the Brooklyn Dodgers. His number was 42.

Barack Obama broke a similar barrier in politics by winning election in 2008 as the first black U.S. president.

Thandie Newton takes lead acting role in 'Rogue'

ATLANTA (AP)—Thandie Newton doesn't shy away from the idea that she might be a role model.

As she takes on a leading television role, she hopes to empower women like the stars who have come before her—Kerry Washington, Regina King and Anika Noni Rose among them.

"They have empowered many," said Newton, a racially mixed actress who is of British and Zimbabwean decent. "Empowerment anywhere leads to empowerment everywhere. The world is changing at a pace where it needs to be. That's how I feel, and I'm proud to be a part of this movement."

The 40-year-old actress will star in the dramatic series, "Rogue," which premieres Wednesday night on DirecTV's in-house channel Audience Network. It'll be DirecTV's first venture into original programming, and the third series to air on Audience along with "Friday Night Lights" and "Damages."

AP

In this Thursday, March 28, 2013 photo, actress Thandie Newton poses for a photograph, in Atlanta. Newton stars as a conflicted undercover cop in a new television crime series, "Rouge," airing April 3, 2013.

On the 10-episode "Rogue," Newton plays Grace Travis, an undercover detective who takes on a gangster after her son is killed in a drive by shooting.

"It's the most time I've had to explore a character. It was a luxury," she said. "I had a chance to explore the settled details of what this person is going through. That's why TV is so great. You get to see deeper than you would if it was an hour and a half, although it felt like we were making a 10-hour movie."

Newton, who has starred in movies such as "Crash" and "The Pursuit of Happiness," said the show's creator Matthew Parkhill told her before taping "Rogue" to prepare herself mentally and physically for the filming process.

"He said `Crash' was only six days for you. This show will be `Crash' for four months," recalled Newton. "I'm very instinctive when it comes to the emotional stuff, but I knew I needed stamina."

Newton wanted to get more into character, learning the techniques of Krav Maga—an Israeli tactical self-defense method used in close combat. She thought it would be better for her to show that she can actually fight, rather than tote around a gun.

"I wanted to train in the gritty street-like way," she said. I was playing an undercover detective, so I wanted to look like I was well trained. I didn't want to be the character looking sexy with a gun."

Newton said she was glad to show that she's more than a pretty face.

"For me, it has been a gradual evolution of empowerment of women of color," she said. "I'm a success already. I'm happy to influence others along the way. ... This is one life. If we're able to help others while on this journey, then fantastic."

'Transformers 4' takes shape with help from China

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Bay's "Transformers" robots are shaping up again with an assist from China.

Paramount Pictures announced a deal Tuesday with China Movie Channel and Jiaflix Enterprises to help on the production of "Transformers 4," the next installment in the director's blockbuster franchise.

According to the agreement, China Movie Channel, which is overseen by the Chinese government, will help select filming sites in China, and with theatrical promotion and possibly post-production work there.

AP

This undated publicity photos provided by courtesy of Paramount Pictures shows Bumblebee in a scene from the film, "Transformers: Dark of the Moon."

It also will work with the filmmakers on casting Chinese actors in the movie, which stars Mark Wahlberg and is due out in June 2014.

Jiaflix, headed by former Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences president Sid Ganis, brokered the deal. The company exports Chinese films to overseas markets and promotes production and distribution of films in China.

Bay's 2011 smash "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" took in $1.1 billion worldwide, including $165 million in China.

Stones returning to stage: Why should we care?

By DAVID BAUDER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Ladies and gentlemen, the Rolling Stones.

With Wednesday's expected announcement of a new Stones tour, those words will again signal the start of a rock `n' roll show. Young music fans may wonder why there's still a fuss over dad's, or grandpa's, favorite band. Here are five reasons to care.

1. LIVING HISTORY: Elvis Presley is dead. The Beatles will never perform again. The Who is down to two originals. Membership of rock's Greatest Generation is fading. The Stones, Bob Dylan and Paul McCartney are links to a special time in music history, and you can still see them in concert. If the Stones' form of classic rock moves you, it's hard to conceive of a band today building such an impressive catalog in the same style. Fashion, and the business, has moved on.

2. LIVE BAND: They'll never admit it, but deep down the Stones surely know they haven't made memorable new music in decades. They have, however, kept their chops and deliver the songs you want to hear with power and precision. You can't find a better Stones tribute band. The Stones are fully aware of their best work; you won't hear a flabby show. The past few times out, it has been more than greatest hits performed on autopilot.

AP

In this Dec. 12, 2012 file image released by Starpix, Keith Richards, left, and Mick Jagger of The Rolling Stones perform at 12-12-12 The Concert for Sandy Relief at Madison Square Garden in New York. The band is expected to release information on their upcoming tour on Wednesday, April 3, 2013.

3. KEITH RICHARDS: There was a time, kids, when Keith was a menace to society, a walking advertisement of the evils of drugs. Now he's a beloved figure, humanized by one of rock's best biographies and the model for Johnny Depp's Capt. Jack Sparrow character in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" series. He's your cool, crazy uncle. He plays a pretty decent guitar, too.

4. CHARLIE'S FACE: There's no better facial expression in rock `n' roll than the bemused one worn by drummer Charlie Watts as he takes in the madness around him. Watch Watts when Mick Jagger does a particularly audacious chicken strut.

5. THE LAST TIME: We'll be surprised if this is labeled as some sort of retirement tour; they've been subjected to so many age jokes over the years that the topic itself is old. And these men are in surprisingly good shape for the years of hard living. But Richards and Jagger are 69, and Watts will be 72 in June. Reality is catching up. Probably even before they expect it, they'll be singing "The Last Time" for the last time.

Michael Jackson civil case jury selection begins

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jury selection began Tuesday in a lawsuit filed by Michael Jackson's mother against the promoter of the late pop star's planned comeback concerts.

Dozens of prospective jurors answered written questionnaires that gauged their ability to serve on the trial, which may last three months. One 24-page section of the questionnaire focused on each person's knowledge and opinions on Jackson's life, his music, his family, as well as media coverage and whether they would have a problem deciding a multimillion-dollar case.

Katherine Jackson's case accuses concert giant AEG Live of failing to properly investigate the former doctor who was convicted of involuntary manslaughter for the superstar's June 2009 death.

AEG has denied wrongdoing and its attorney, Marvin Putnam, has said the company could not have foreseen circumstances that led to Jackson dying from an overdose of the powerful anesthetic propofol.

The trial will revisit the singer's final days, as well as his struggles with insomnia and prescription drugs.

Jackson's family is seeking $40 billion, but jurors will determine any damage amounts awarded. If they award damages, jurors will have to determine how much responsibility AEG Live has for Jackson's death.

The panel also could determine that the pop superstar was responsible for his own demise and limit the amount his family can collect.

The court proceedings, though routine, drew interest from fans and media outlets, who parked satellite trucks and cameras outside the courthouse. Katherine Jackson, who sued AEG in 2010 and has had her case trimmed to a single allegation of negligent hiring and supervision, did not attend the first day of jury selection.

AP

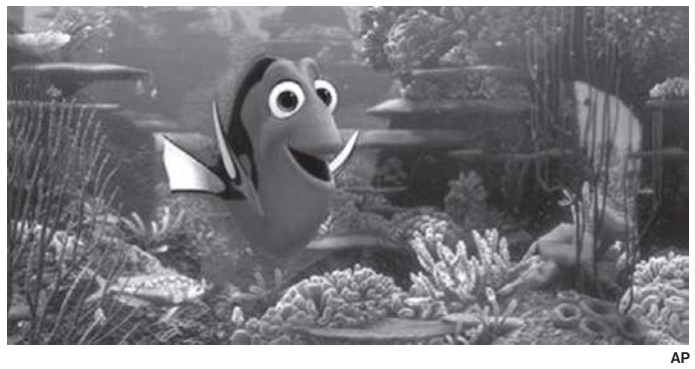
In this April 27, 2011 file photo, Katherine Jackson poses for a portrait in Calabasas, Calif. Jury selection began Tuesday April 2, 2013 in Katherine Jackson's civil lawsuit against concert giant AEG Live over allegations the company failed to properly investigate the doctor convicted of involuntary manslaughter for the singer's 2009 death.

DeGeneres hooked for 'Nemo' sequel 'Finding Dory'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ellen DeGeneres is going fishing again with a sequel to the animated blockbuster "Finding Nemo."

Disney and its Pixar Animation unit announced Tuesday that DeGeneres will reprise her "Nemo" voice role for "Finding Dory." The sequel is due out Nov. 25, 2015, and will be directed by Andrew Stanton, who also made "Finding Nemo."

"I have waited for this day for a long, long, long, long, long, long time," DeGeneres said. "I'm not mad it took this long. I know the people at Pixar were busy creating `Toy Story 16.' But the time they took was worth it. The script is fantastic. And it has everything I loved about the first one: It's got a lot of heart, it's really funny, and the best part is—it's got a lot more Dory."



AP

This film image released by Disney Pixar shows the character Dory, voiced by Ellen DeGeneres.

The new film picks up about a year after the action of "Finding Nemo," with DeGeneres' forgetful fish Dory on her own adventure to reunite with loved ones.

According to Disney, the film will feature new characters along with familiar ones, including Nemo and his dad, Marlin, who was voiced by Albert Brooks. There's no word yet from Disney on whether Brooks will reprise his voice role.

Jane Henson of Muppet family fame dies at 78

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Jim Henson Co. says Henson's partner in marriage and Muppets has died. The company says Jane Henson died Tuesday at her Connecticut home following a battle with cancer. She was 78.

She and Jim Henson met in a University of Maryland puppetry class in the mid-1950s, and they became creative and business partners in the development of the Muppets.

The Hensons married in 1959 and had five children: Lisa, Cheryl, Brian, John and Heather. The pair separated in 1986, and Jim Henson died in 1990.

In 1992, Jane Henson created and funded The Jim Henson Legacy to preserve his artistic contributions.

A memorial Mass is planned next week.

Wife sees trouble in eyes of husband and store clerk

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Wade," and I went into a convenience store near our home that we frequent regularly. A new employee—a pretty, much younger girl—stared at Wade with an expression of recognition and surprise on her face. When I asked him what that was about, he laughed it off and said I was "imagining things."

The next time we saw her, Wade acted nervous and started talking fast, as if trying to distract me. He seemed to be avoiding eye contact with her. She ignored me while obviously trying to lock eyes with Wade. The third time, she again ignored me but smirked and giggled while we were checking out. Then she shouted, "See ya later!" to my husband as we were walking out the door. When I turned, I caught Wade glaring at her.

When I asked why he did it, he replied, "I looked at her like that because she was acting like an idiot." When I asked why she'd be acting like an idiot if they didn't know each other, he started screaming at me. He called me crazy and threatened to leave me if I bring the subject up again.

Should I ask her why she seems so amused by my husband? And why is he angry at me?

SMELLS SOMETHING FISHY

DEAR SMELLS: By all means ask because I'll bet she is dying to tell you. Your husband may have been seeing her or someone she knows. He attacked you because he felt guilty about something and didn't want to discuss it.

It proves the truth of the adage, "The best defense is a strong offense." Believe me, you have my sympathy, but you need to get to the bottom of this, so don't put it off.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What do you call additions to your family that result from second or third marriages? Our daughter died several years ago. I refer to her widower as my son-in-law, but what term should I use when I introduce his new wife? She has two daughters from a previous marriage—sweet girls who call me "Granddad." Technically, they are not my granddaughters—but what are they?

These are just two examples of modern relationships that seem to require a new vocabulary. I have tried searching the Internet for answers without luck. Any suggestions?

FAMILY MAN IN TEXAS

DEAR FAMILY MAN: When introducing your late daughter's husband and his wife, try this: "This is my son-in-law 'Sam' and his wife, 'Virginia.'" If you're asked for clarification, which I doubt will happen, give more details. As to the woman's daughters who are not blood related to you, because they call you "Granddad," refer to them as your granddaughters and leave it at that.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Where does the priest get the ashes for Ash Wednesday?

MARY IN VISTA, CALIF.

DEAR MARY: Traditionally, palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday are burned to create the ashes, and those ashes are retained for the next year's Ash Wednesday. Some people keep the palm fronds from the last Palm Sunday tucked behind a cross or a religious picture in their home and bring them to be burned. I have this on good authority. (When I told a priest I would have guessed they were left over from the Inquisition, he laughed.)

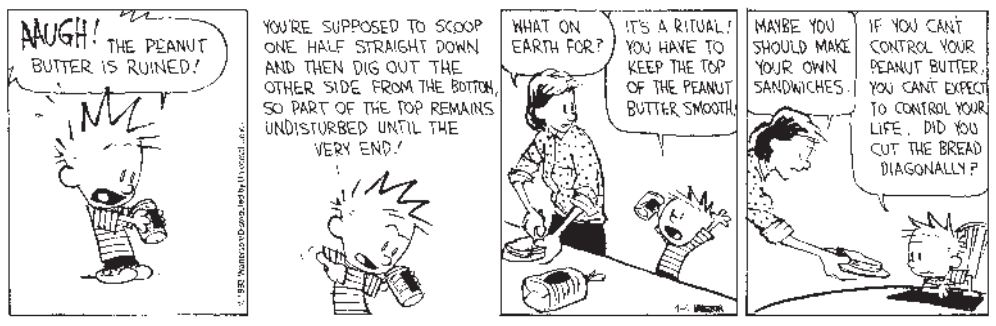
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

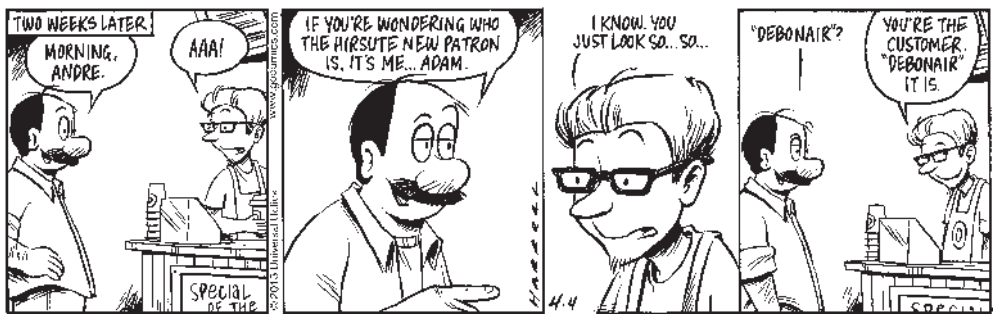

AAUGH! THE PEANUT BUTTER IS RUINED!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SCOOP ONE HALF STRAIGHT DOWN AND THEN DIG OUT THE OTHER SIDE FROM THE BOTTOM, SO PART OF THE TOP REMAINS UNDISTURBED UNTIL THE VERY END.
WHAT ON EARTH FOR?
IT'S A RITUAL. YOU HAVE TO KEEP THE TOP OF THE PEANUT BUTTER SMOOTH.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD MAKE YOUR OWN SANDWICHES.
IF YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOUR PEANUT BUTTER, YOU CAN'T EXPECT TO CONTROL YOUR LIFE. DID YOU CUT THE BREAD DIAGONALLY?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


TWO WEEKS LATER.
MORNING, ANDRE.
AAA!
IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHO THE HIRSUTE NEW PATRON IS, IT'S ME... ADAM.
I KNOW. YOU JUST LOOK SO... SO...
"DEBONAIR"?
YOU'RE THE CUSTOMER. "DEBONAIR" IT IS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

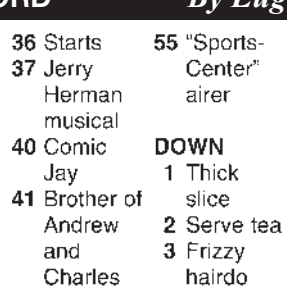
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

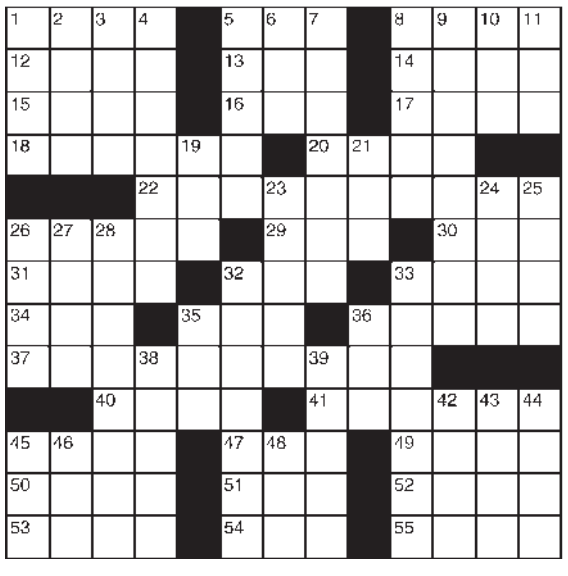
ACROSS
1 Healthful retreats
5 Meadow
8 "So be it"
12 Hay storage area
13 Plant bristle
14 Trademarked symbol
15 Emanation
16 Corral
17 Stench
18 Third-place medal
20 Honolulu's island
22 Waste time
26 Unexpected victory
29 Started
30 Nay opposer
31 Recording
32 Crazed
33 Pack away
34 Rd.
35 One of the Brady Bunch
36 Starts
37 Jerry Herman musical
40 Comic Jay
41 Brother of Andrew and Charles
45 Reed instrument
47 Pal of Wynken and Blynken
49 Wings
50 Gloomy
51 Run-down horse
52 Frost
53 Connect the —
54 Exist
55 "SportsCenter" airer

DOWN
1 Thick slice
2 Serve tea
3 Frizzy hairdo
4 Strap hanger
5 Boutonniere site
6 Ram's mate
7 Peeved
8 20-Across greeting
9 Vary, as a tone
10 Freudian concept
11 "Neither snow — ..."
19 Pimple
21 Toss in
23 Grassy plain
24 French city
25 Some conifers
26 Hexagonal state
27 Macadamize
28 Make absolutely plain
32 "Material Girl" singer
33 Computer security threat
35 Garfield's owner
36 Antiquated
38 Lecherous looks
39 Sill
42 Muhammad and Laila
43 Freeway access
44 TV chef Paula
45 Peculiar
46 Scary cry
48 Rowing tool

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 4-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Robert Downey Jr., 48; Christine Lahti, 63; David Cross, 49; Craig T. Nelson, 69

Happy Birthday: Welcome any help that is offered. What you have to give back will far exceed any feeling of guilt or awkwardness. You are used to doing everything and expecting nothing, but this year the give-and-take aspect of your life must be put into balance if you wish to be successful. An old partnership should be reconsidered. Your numbers are 1, 9, 15, 21, 26, 33, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Offer assistance and good things will happen in return. The joy you spread and the ideas you share will enhance your personal relationships. Doing things differently and being the instigator of your own destiny will prove to be beneficial. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Refrain from making complaints. An emotional issue must be handled with diplomacy. Remain open to suggestions and put greater emphasis on what you can do to help someone going through a difficult time. Put safety first. Avoid secret encounters. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't lend or borrow money with any expectations. A short trip will add to your knowledge, expertise and ability to make constructive alterations to your personal life, attitude and appearance. Love looks promising, but keep your feelings a secret for now. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Your intuition will not lead you astray. You are best not to share sensitive information. Taking responsibility for your actions will bring the results and recognition you desire. Protect your physical and financial wellness. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Do your thing. Getting together with friends or peers could lead to conversation that will encourage you to pursue your dreams. A change of plans, direction or location will enhance your chances of reaching your goals. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Listen carefully and make sure that what's being said is accurate. Let your common sense and gut feeling lead you down the right path. A contract should be considered, but only if you negotiate your terms explicitly. Embrace change. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A relationship will be enhanced if you are willing to make a compromise. Don't fight change when it's essential to moving forward. People from different backgrounds will inspire you. Love will blossom. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Get involved in events that will help you connect with influential people. Contributions you make will attract someone who has something to offer you professionally, financially or creatively. Don't allow personal situations to slow you down. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Put more energy into your home, family and romance. Make a decision that will help you put any misrepresentations or uncertainty to rest. Focus on ways to make your future stable and your lifestyle better suited to your personal goals. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Look for common ground before you decide to become closer with someone from your past or present. You want to be aligned with people who contribute, not dictate. Ulterior motives may be a factor. Let your intuition guide you. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Generosity will draw unique individuals into your life. Draw on past experience and consider the changes you want to make in order to improve your future. Larger quarters or sharing your space with more people will improve your outlook. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Moderation is a must if you don't want to ruin a good opportunity. Keeping your life and plans simple will bring the best results. Let your wisdom come from insight, past experience and a keen sense of practicality. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outspoken, innovative and curious. You are inventive and trendy.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1						9	3	
			4	6				5
		4						7
	3				4	1		
	9						4	
		6	7				2	
4						8		
2				1	3			
	7	8						1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	3	6	5	8	2	9	1	4
5	9	8	1	3	4	6	2	7
4	2	1	7	9	6	8	3	5
6	7	2	3	5	8	4	9	1
9	1	5	4	2	7	3	6	8
8	4	3	6	1	9	7	5	2
1	6	7	9	4	5	2	8	3
3	8	9	2	7	1	5	4	6
2	5	4	8	6	3	1	7	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

100TH GREY CUP **Solution: 8 letters**

S	K	H	Y	R	O	G	E	R	S	S	Y	A	L	P
L	P	A	O	A	H	I	S	T	O	R	I	C	A	O
L	W	O	C	O	A	C	H	L	H	F	M	T	N	S
A	F	M	R	K	I	C	K	S	T	I	A	D	T	T
B	I	A	E	T	E	C	O	I	N	I	R	A	H	A
T	W	E	Y	M	O	R	M	T	L	A	D	D	E	G
O	O	T	M	N	O	A	T	S	Y	I	F	L	M	E
O	H	U	S	N	R	R	T	N	U	H	D	A	D	N
F	S	I	C	I	O	U	A	M	E	E	P	Y	I	I
T	D	P	A	H	A	I	U	B	T	S	S	O	E	L
E	R	N	L	N	D	S	S	A	I	Ⓟ	P	R	R	Z
G	A	E	O	A	I	O	E	I	M	L	Ⓤ	E	O	T
S	O	G	N	C	Y	F	W	A	V	O	I	Ⓝ	J	S
E	R	A	A	C	E	E	T	N	T	I	E	A	Ⓣ	O
A	C	L	L	D	H	S	R	G	N	I	D	L	O	H

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Anthem, Argonauts, Away, Canadian, City, Coach, Coin, Defeated, Division, Fans, Football, Goal, Historic, Holding, Host, Jepsen, Kackert, Kick, Line, Marianas, Memorabilia, Mint, Musical, Onside, Player, Plays, Postage, Punt, Reid, Rogers, Roof, Royal, Show, Sport, Stadium, Stamps, Tails, Team, Third, Touchdown, Tour, Trench, Trophy, Yard, Zone

Yesterday's Answer: Political

THE WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 can be ordered by sending a check or money order for $17.95 each plus $3.00 postage and handling (total $20.95) to: Universal Uclick, Dept. WW, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Credit card orders may be placed by calling toll-free 1-800-591-3863 or online at http://store.universaluclick.com/pawsinc/wonderword. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

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Lower Navy Hill Apts. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Unit approximately 600sq.ft. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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MISA ENTERPRISES,INC.

General Maintenance (2): Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing, repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and good moral character, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of position listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 years of experience. Applications can be picked-up at Kinpachi Restaurant, MISA Building 4, Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

No phone calls please.

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Knowledgeable in electrical system installations, Familiar with all types of electrical products, Receives & stocks inventories, do sales and delivery. Min 5 years exp w/ driver's license.

Send resume to hongeei@pticom.com
HONG ELECTRIC ENTERPRISES, INC.

SASAMO USA CORPORATION
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Minimum of 5 year experience of Korean food. Provide own transportation, flexible work hours.

Send resume to tnxod98@naver.com or sylviacnmi@gmail.com

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Starting Salary $6.00/hr.
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Only U.S. qualified workers need apply.

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YANO ENTERPRISES, INC.

Cook (2): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Restaurant Waitress (3): Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

Please no phone calls.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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- with minimum of 3 years experience
- knowledge in speaking Chinese preferred

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AQUARIUS BEACH TOWER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENTS

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High School diploma, minimum 5 years hotel experience, criminal background check required.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE (2)

High School diploma, minimum 5 years hotel experience, knowledge of plumbing, electrical, carpentry, painting, appliance repairs. Criminal background check required.

Applications can be picked up at the Aquarius Beach Tower and be submitted by no later than April 7th, 2013.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Darvish loses perfect game with 2 outs in 9th

HOUSTON (AP)—Yu Darvish was one out from a perfect game when Marwin Gonzalez grounded a clean single through the pitcher's legs, and the Texas Rangers beat the Houston Astros 7-0 on Tuesday night.

The celebrated right-hander from Japan struck out a career-high 14 and was in complete control before Gonzalez smacked the first pitch up the middle. Darvish was unable to get his glove down in time and the ball skittered into center field well beyond a desperate dive by shortstop Elvis Andrus.

Darvish (1-0) smiled and extended his arms - almost like, "Oh well, it happens." Several disappointed fans put their hands on their heads, and Darvish was lifted after 111 pitches.

Darvish's 14 strikeouts matched a Minute Maid Park record and were the most by a Rangers pitcher since Hall of Famer and current team CEO Nolan Ryan had 14 in July 1991 against the Angels.

Michael Kirkman allowed a single to Jose Altuve before fanning pinch-hitter J.D. Martinez to end it.

Darvish has never thrown a complete game in the majors.

Lucas Harrell (0-1) yielded six hits and one run in six innings. Lance Berkman had three hits and two RBIs against his former team. Ian Kinsler hit a two-run homer off Rhiner Cruz to make it 3-0 in the seventh.

AP

Texas Rangers' Yu Darvish delivers a pitch against the Houston Astros in the fifth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, April 2, 2013, in Houston. Darvish pitched eight and two-thirds perfect innings before giving up a hit to Astros' Marwin Gonzalez in the Rangers' 7-0 win.

Orioles 7, Rays 4

In St. Petersburg, Adam Jones keyed a seventh-inning rally with a go-ahead, two-run double and Chris Davis followed with a three-run homer to help Baltimore open the season with a victory over Tampa Bay.

Matt Wieters homered early off AL Cy Young Award winner David Price. Wieters later drew an intentional walk from reliever Jake McGee (0-1) before Davis' towering shot over the right-field wall broke open the game and silenced a sellout crowd of 34,078 at Tropicana Field.

Jason Hammel (1-0) allowed three runs and three hits in six innings. Jim Johnson pitched a scoreless ninth for the save.

Ben Zobrist hit a solo homer for the Rays and put them ahead with a sacrifice fly in the sixth.

Indians 4, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, R.A. Dickey and the overhauled Blue Jays lost their season opener to Cleveland.

Asdrubal Cabrera hit a two-run homer off the NL Cy Young Award winner, Justin Masterson pitched six solid innings and the Indians ended their streak of opening day losses at four.

Excited by the winter acquisitions of Dickey, Jose Reyes and other All-Stars, fans in Toronto were eager to see the revamped roster in action.

Instead, a disappointed sellout crowd of 48,857 watched Masterson and three relievers combine on a four-hitter. Masterson retired his last 11 batters and Chris Perez earned a save.

Giants 3, Dodgers 0

In Los Angeles, Madison Bumgarner pitched two-hit ball over eight innings, giving the San Francisco Giants a 3-0 win against the Dodgers while overshadowing the major league debut of high-priced Los Angeles pitcher Hyun-Jin Ryu (He-YUN Jin Ree-YOO) on Tuesday night.

Bumgarner (1-0) struck out six and walked none in the second straight gem at Dodger Stadium. The only hits were a pair of doubles by Andre Ethier and A.J. Ellis. Left-hander Clayton Kershaw homered and pitched a four-hit shutout in the Dodgers' 4-0 victory on opening day Monday.

Sergio Romo pitched a perfect ninth to earn his first save of the season.

Ryu's debut helped draw 45,431 fans to see the left-hander who signed a $36 million, six-year deal with the team in December, making him the first player to go directly from the Korea Baseball Organization to the U.S. major leagues.

Cardinals 6, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, Matt Holliday, Pete Kozma and Jon Jay homered and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 6-1 on Tuesday night to even their season-opening series at a game apiece.

Jaime Garcia (1-0) gave up two hits, one of them a solo homer by Miguel Montero, in 5 2-3 innings for the Cardinals. Holliday's two-run home run off Trevor Cahill broke a 1-1 tie in the sixth.

Kozma added a leadoff homer and Jay a two-run shot off the right field foul pole, both off reliever Heath Bell in the seventh.

Kozma's homer came on Bell's first pitch with the Diamondbacks. Matt Carpenter doubled twice for St. Louis.

Rockies 8, Brewers 4

In Milwaukee, Troy Tulowitzki and Carlos Gonzalez each homered for the second straight game, leading the Colorado Rockies over the Milwaukee Brewers 8-4 Tuesday night and giving Walt Weiss his first win as a major league manager.

Tulowitzki is off to quick start after missing the last four months of the 2012 season with an injured left groin that required surgery.

The All-Star shortstop went 2 for 5 with a homer and two RBIs in Monday's loss on opening day.

Tulowitzki and Gonzalez each drove in two runs in the win. Weiss posted his first victory, a year after he was managing his son's high school team.

Ryan Braun hit his first homer of the season for Milwaukee.

Edgmer Escalona (1-0) pitched 1 2-3 innings of scoreless relief for the victory.

Cardinals acquire Q'back Palmer from Raiders

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)—Carson Palmer has landed with the third team of his NFL career.

First Cincinnati, then Oakland and now Arizona, it's not exactly a 'Who's Who' of NFL powerhouses.

But Palmer and his new coach insist that he's coming to a Cardinals team built to win now, despite the fact it lost 11 of its last 12 a season ago.

The Arizona Cardinals acquired Palmer from the Oakland Raiders, then agreed to a two-year contract that could pay him up to $20 million with $10 million guaranteed.

''I've got a lot of tread left on my tires,'' the 33-year-old quarterback promised.

Ever since Bruce Arians was hired to replace the fired Ken Whisenhunt, quarterback was the No. 1 topic of conversation.

''I'm here to introduce our starting quarterback and put it to bed,'' Arians said at a news conference on Tuesday, ''and I'm really happy about it.''

The Cardinals gave up a conditional seventh-round 2014 draft pick and swapped the second of their two sixth-round picks this year for Oakland's seventh-round selection.

''This was a no-brainer,'' Cardinals President Michael Bidwill said. ''When we learned that he would be available via trade and that we had a shot at getting him, we were aggressive. We went out there, we put our best foot forward and made sure that we got the deal done. It dragged on a little over the weekend but this morning we made sure we pushed it over the goal line and got it done.''

Palmer was to make $13 million under his old Raiders contract but reworked it to come to the desert.

''I've only got a couple of shots left,'' he said. ''I've been in this league for a long time. It's nothing personal, it's not statistical, it's about trying to win a championship.''

If Palmer starts at least 13 games next season, Oakland gets Arizona's 2014 seventh-round pick. If he doesn't, the Cardinals owe the Raiders nothing.

But at least the Raiders have the prospect of getting something for the quarterback rather than just releasing him. Oakland acquired quarterback Matt Flynn on Monday in a deal that sent two draft picks to the Seahawks.

Palmer is 54-67 as a starter. He was 4-11 with Oakland last season.

In 15 games in 2012, Palmer threw for 4,018 yards, becoming the second quarterback in Raiders history to throw for more than 4,000 yards in a season. He threw for 22 touchdowns with 14 interceptions.

Wichita State evens field against Final Four rivals

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—The entire basketball program at Wichita State runs on what Louisville coach Rick Pitino makes in a single year, with money left over to purchase plenty of trophy cases for Final Four hardware.

In an NCAA tournament driven by longshots and upsets, the Shockers are in many ways the oddball of the season's final weekend: They don't have a big-time football program like Syracuse, Michigan or the Cardinals, and they don't belong to a major conference that enjoys a weighty television contract.

Instead, the Shockers run their basketball program on a budget of just $3.1 million, which accounts for everything from coach Gregg Marshall's salary to a robust recruiting budget, all of the transportation to road games and everything else that comes with playing Division I sports.

Pitino, by comparison, makes $3.9 million in base salary alone.

But the fiscal disparity between the three big schools and a mid-major like Wichita State will hardly matter when the ball is tossed up Saturday night in the Georgia Dome, and the Shockers take on the Cardinals for the right to play for the national championship.

Everything is equal when the teams step on the hardwood.

''Our administration gives us wonderful support,'' Marshall said this week. ''We fly on private planes every time we leave town. We have 10,500 fans at every game. It's a great place to coach.''

That's why Marshall has rebuffed every overture to leave.

The calls will undoubtedly pick up given what the Shockers have done this year, but the longtime coach of Winthrop has said repeatedly that it would take the perfect opportunity to pry him away.

For one thing, he has it pretty good at Wichita State.

The school's robust aerospace engineering program, along with the National Institute for Aviation Research right on campus, means Marshall has plenty of private planes at his disposal - no flying in coach for this mid-major team. And that extends to recruiting, where Marshall's able to cover more ground than most coaches by dictating when and where the wheels go up.

''They're kind of like sports cars, instead of a school bus. They're more like Ferraris and Jaguars. They go pretty fast,'' Marshall said, joking about the fleet of private planes.

''That is a great benefit,'' he said. ''Our players don't understand how good they have it, to go from bus to private plane to bus and in a couple hours be in our hotel.''

Then there's the fact that the Shockers no longer have a football team—it was disbanded in the mid-1980s. The money that the Missouri Valley school once funneled into a losing program has, for the better part of 30 years, been directed toward the more successful basketball team.

Lakers hang Shaq's No. 34 jersey in the rafters

AP

Former Los Angeles Lakers center Shaquille O'Neal, right, shakes hands with former Lakers head coach Phil Jackson as Jeanie Buss, Lakers executive vice president of business operations, looks after they retired his jersey during the half of the Lakers' NBA basketball game against the Dallas Mavericks, Tuesday, April 2, 2013, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—When Shaquille O'Neal visited the Forum during the summer he joined the Los Angeles Lakers, Jerry West encouraged him to look up at the retired jerseys hanging above the court.

"He said, `You can be as great as these guys,'" O'Neal recalled.

West's prediction is finally official. Shaq joined Wilt Chamberlain, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, George Mikan and the rest of the Lakers' greats Tuesday night when the club retired his No. 34 jersey in a halftime ceremony.

"I just wish Dr. Buss was here to see this, to enjoy this joyous occasion," O'Neal said of Lakers owner Jerry Buss, who died in February. "I always hoped and prayed it would come. It was a dream come true."

Although O'Neal rarely finds himself speechless, he's thrilled to receive the honor he first imagined back in 1996 when he chose the Lakers.

"It gets me real emotional," O'Neal said before the game. "Growing up in Newark, New Jersey, and my father teaching me about the game, always mentioning Wilt Chamberlain and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and telling me when I was a young medium juvenile delinquent that, `If you do things right, son, maybe one day you can be as great as those guys.'"

There's no longer any doubt O'Neal ranks among the greatest centers in basketball history. The NBA's sixth-leading career scorer played eight of his 19 seasons with the Lakers, winning three championships and reaching four NBA finals during his basketball prime.

Although O'Neal began his career in Orlando and played for four more teams after leaving Los Angeles, the 15-time All-Star says he considers Los Angeles his NBA home.

"I did most of my damage here, won most of my championships here, had most of my fun here," he said. "Even though I got one in Miami, it was fun, but we had three great ones here, three in a row. If I'm good enough to get into the Hall of Fame, I'll definitely go in as a Laker."

O'Neal's eight years alongside Kobe Bryant are among the most tumultuous and successful times in the team's history. They overcame initial struggles to win three straight titles from 2000-02 with the arrival of coach Phil Jackson, who returned to Staples on Tuesday for O'Neal's ceremony.

O'Neal and Bryant eventually split in 2004 after numerous personal and professional clashes, and their verbal sparring continued through Bryant's fifth championship in 2010. O'Neal insists any feud is long squashed, chalking it all up to posturing and mutual motivation.

"We've talked a lot since our playing days," O'Neal said. "There's two different kinds of dislike. There's an athletic dislike, and there's a real dislike. We never had a real dislike. We had a million good times and a thousand bad times. ... If I had it all over to do again, would I do it different? Probably not."

Although he retired in 2011, O'Neal still is making an imprint on the Lakers - specifically on the psyche of Dwight Howard, their new franchise center.

O'Neal's pointed criticism of Howard in his new job as a television pundit has been an intriguing subplot to the latest Lakers big man's rough debut season. O'Neal didn't back off Howard on his special night, saying Howard should try to average 28 points and 10 rebounds per game if he hopes to be taken seriously as an elite center.

"We don't really have a relationship, but I'm just doing to him what the others did to me," O'Neal said of Howard, recalling Abdul-Jabbar calling him "an OK player" before he had any rings.

"I think it was Kareem's challenge to me to step it up," O'Neal added. "I'm not criticizing (Howard). I'm just issuing a challenge. I think I have the right to say, `You have to average 28-10 in order to get a championship.' I just see a kid with a lot of talent."

When asked if he empathized with Howard's struggles to get healthy after offseason back surgery, O'Neal said: "My father was a military drill sergeant, and his motto was, `If you can walk, you can play.' I wish there was a time I was injury-free when I played. I empathize with his pain, but no pain, no gain. He has the potential to be one of the greatest big men ever, but he has to want it."

O'Neal's celebration included profuse thanks to the Buss family, several former coaches and Lakers employees. He name-checked nearly everybody who worked for the Lakers during his eight-year tenure, even extending a detailed thanks to former assistant coach Bill Bertka.

"The only regrets I have are missing 200 games and missing 5,000 free throws," O'Neal said. "Other than that, I had fun, did it my way. Made a lot of friends, made a lot of enemies. It was all fun."

Kobe's triple-double pushes Lakers versus Mavericks

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant had 23 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists in his 19th career triple-double, and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Dallas Mavericks 101-81 Tuesday night in a key game for the two teams struggling to get into the Western Conference playoff picture.

Dwight Howard had 24 points and 12 rebounds while hitting seven fourth-quarter free throws for the Lakers (39-36), who had lost four of six before jumping to a big early lead on Dallas and hanging on to it throughout the second half.

With former coach Phil Jackson in attendance for Shaquille O'Neal's jersey retirement, Bryant put on a virtuoso performance while playing more than 47 minutes.

With the win, Los Angeles moved back into an eighth-place tie in the West with the Utah Jazz (39-36), who hold the tiebreaker edge on the Lakers.

Dallas (36-38) still has a game in hand on the Lakers and Jazz, but the Mavs' task just got tougher. Chris Kaman scored 14 points and Dirk Nowitzki had just 11 points on 4-of-13 shooting for the Mavericks, who had won four of five.

After trailing for most of the night, Dallas was down by just seven points when the Mavs began intentionally fouling Howard. Hack-a-Dwight backfired miserably, with Howard going a respectable 7 for 12 while the Lakers made a decisive 16-1 run, holding the Mavericks without a field goal down the stretch.

Pau Gasol had 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, while Earl Clark contributed 17 points and 12 rebounds while playing a stellar defensive game off the bench.

Bryant has rested for just 79 seconds in the past two games, but he's keeping the Lakers afloat during their latest round of injuries.

The Lakers played without Steve Nash and Metta World Peace, forcing coach Mike D'Antoni to create his latest makeshift starting lineup in a season full of them. Nash is hopeful he'll return Friday after a bit more rest for his injured hip, while World Peace won't be back any time soon from surgery on a torn meniscus in his left knee.

Although the Lakers aren't at full strength, at least they can get some rest at home. After a road-heavy March schedule, the Lakers must leave Los Angeles just once more in the regular season during their sprint to the playoffs, making a single overnight trip to Portland while playing six of their last eight on their home court.

The Lakers retired O'Neal's No. 34 jersey at halftime, with Lakers luminaries including Jerry West, Elgin Baylor and Jamaal Wilkes assembling for the ceremony. The Staples Center crowd loved Shaq, but the fans adored former coach Phil Jackson, who attended what was likely his first game since walking away from the team in 2011.

Wizards 90, Bulls 86

In Washington, John Wall had 27 points, nine assists and eight rebounds, Emeka Okafor scored the go-ahead dunk in the final minute and theWizards won their eighth straight home game Tuesday night, beating the temperamental Chicago Bulls 90-86.

Wall was 8 for 17 from the field and 11 for 13 at the free throw line as the Wizards maintained pursuit of their goal of becoming the best team not to make the playoffs. They want to pass the Philadelphia 76ers and finish ninth in the Eastern Conference - not bad for a team that started 4-28 - and Tuesday's win left them 2 1/2 games back with eight to play.

Wall is averaging 23.7 points and 8.6 assists during the home winning streak.

Carlos Boozer had 19 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Bulls, who are vying for home-court advantage in the playoffs. The loss put them two games behind the fourth-place Brooklyn Nets in the East. Chicago visits Brooklyn on Thursday.

One of the Bulls' biggest challenges was having enough players to finish the game. Taj Gibson left in the first half with a left knee injury and did not return, and Kirk Hinrich was tossed with 3:19 to play for picking up a pair of technicals after teammate Nazr Mohammed was called for basket interference while tipping in a rebound.

Boozer was whistled for a technical in the third quarter, and Hinrich and Mohammed both picked up their fourth fouls in the third.

Chicago was already without Derrick Rose (left knee), Joakim Noah (right foot), Marco Belinelli (abdominal strain) and Richard Hamilton (lower back).

While the Bulls are undermanned, the Wizards are about as healthy as they've been all season. Nene returned after missing four games with a sore right knee, leaving only out-for-the-year Leandro Barbosa (left knee) as the only player not available for coach Randy Wittman.

Nene finished with 10 points and seven rebounds.

Knicks 102, Heat 90

In Miami, Carmelo Anthony released his final shot of the night then skipped backward, already knowing the outcome.

The shot was good.

For Anthony and the New York Knicks, the outcome was even better.

Relying entirely on jumpers, Anthony tied his career high with 50 points and the Knicks won their ninth straight game, topping the injury-depleted Miami Heat 102-90 on Wednesday night.

"I felt good tonight," Anthony said.

There was no arguing that.

Anthony finished 18 of 26 from the field, taking two dribbles to free himself from Shane Battier and make his last shot with 16.9 seconds remaining to get to 50 and send the Knicks' bench into hysterics. It was the third time he scored 50 in his career, and it came with Miami's LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Mario Chalmers all sidelined by injuries.

"I think just from the start of the game, it's a feeling that you just have while you're out there on the court," Anthony said. "Sometimes you get off to a good start and then you get cold the rest of the game, but tonight wasn't one of those cases."

No, it was not.

He made his first seven shots, and the fact that he had 37 points before notching any other statistic of note - no rebounds, assists, steals or blocked shots until the third quarter - let everyone in the building know that he was all about a scoring spree.

And the Heat had no answers.

SUFA fundraiser softball tourney set for April 19-21

BY WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Team SUFA's first fundraiser softball tournament for 2013 will run from April 19 to April 21 at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Event organizers are holding a 6pm technical meeting for all interested participants on Wednesday, April 17, at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Entrance fee is set at $100 per team with an optional $50 fee available to lift the homerun limit, however the fee must be paid in full before the team's first game. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team, but are still being determined.

There is no deadline to register although the first 10 teams to pay in full will secure spots on the double-elimination tournament. By rule, at least two female players must be on each team. At least one female must play out in the field and two females must remain in the lineup at all times. Rosters are limited to 15 players.

The bracket will be randomly formulated and the event is scheduled to start at 6pm on April 19. From there, games will run all day the following Saturday and Sunday, starting at 10am.

SUFA is a non-profit organization that routinely raises its own funds every year in order to represent the CNMI in the popular CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament held in the U.S. mainland.

This year marks the ninth episode of the annual Labor Day weekend event and SUFA's sixth appearance. Last year, Team SUFA placed fifth out of 19 teams in the competition that was held in Boise, Idaho.

Team SUFA would like to thank all of its supporters and sponsors for helping their cause.

For more information, contact SUFA's Secretary, Alfreda P. Camacho, at alfreda.p.camacho@gmail.com or call Joe Flores at 483-7848.

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36.90 seconds, surpassing the 37.58 seconds she earned on July 14, 2012.

A 1:16.77 mark in the 100m butterfly allowed Tammy to reset another record of her (1:20.69) made on May 26, 2012, while in the 100m backstroke, the 10-year-old swimmer clocked in at 1:19.10, erasing the 1:19.13 she posted on Sept. 29, 2012. Tammy then capped her impressive performance in the three-nation tournament that also featured Guam and Marshall Islands swimmers with a record-swim in the 200m individual medley. She submitted 2:46.38, about seven seconds faster than her own mark (2:53.17/April 14, 2012).

With Tammy resetting six marks, she still holds the most records (12) in the 9 to 10 age group. Angel Marie Tan, who is now competing in the 13 to 14 division, owns the remaining three.

Yanai also kept his marks in the boys 13 to 14 age group. His 35.04 seconds in the 50 breaststroke broke the old record (35.10 seconds) he tallied on Jan. 12, 2013. The 13-year-old swimmer also updated his age group mark in the 100m breaststroke (1:15.59/Jan. 12,2013) after completing last month's race in 1:14.15. In the 200m breaststroke, Yanai timed in at 2:36.45, more than three seconds ahead of his previous record of 2:39.65 posted also on Jan. 12, 2013.

Meanwhile, Kimura's records in the 15 to 16 age group now total to four after he set two new marks in last month's competition. His 1:12.03 in the 100m breaststroke shattered the five-year-old mark of Rezne Wong, who logged 1:12.19 in the same event on Feb. 2, 2008. Then in the 100m backstroke, Kimura tallied 1:05.33, surpassing the 1:05.41 Kai Staal recorded on April 9, 2010.

Kimura's two other records in the 15 to 16 age groups are in the 200m backstroke and 800m freestyle. He logged 2:19.12 in the 200m backstroke on Jan. 19, 2013 during 6th Australian Youth Olympic Festival at the Aquatics Centre of the Sydney Olympic Park in Australia to set both age group and CNMI national marks. In the 800m freestyle, he made his record-time (9:12.98) during the Tsunami Saipan-hosted All Island Invitational 1 on Jan. 21, 2012.

FAVORED

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frame off a hit, a fielder's choice, and some errors.

Andaves Kalen drew a leadoff walk and later scored off an ill-advised throw around the infield. Justin Celis singled on and was driven home by Pedro Maratita, who later stole the dish after teammate Thomas Agulto trotted in off an error.

Laolao then clung to a 5-4 advantage heading into the fourth exchange before nailing five runs for some much needed breathing room. Its defense buttoned up in the late innings and kept a lid on the Jets. Both teams tallied seven hits in the game, though Laolao played a cleaner game on the field.

Winning pitcher Maratita struck out nine through 3 and 1/3 innings. Laolao's Celis, Dwayne Reyes and Joe Joyner all logged two hits in the game. The Jets' Napu Pua accounted for half of his team's offense.

Falcons 23, Rangers 0

The Falcons willed a 4-0 favor in the first inning and lifted off to a commanding 13-0 lead in the second frame.

They then streaked out of reach in the third inning with another 10-run burst and secured the rout in the fourth exchange. The Falcons tallied a dozen hits in the game compared to the Rangers three, but more impressively the league frontrunners played an error free match. The Rangers on the other hand committed 12 fumbles on the field as the wheels just came off for the developing group.

Falcons' Arby Yaguel logged three triples and had three RBIs. Justin Cangco also connected with three hits and one RBI, while Koby Lifoifoi pulled around on two hits for two RBIs and a run.

Winning pitcher Aven Evangelista painted his three-hit shutout through four innings with six strikeouts.

Braves 7, Ol'Aces 2

The Braves established a 5-0 lead in the first inning and handily defeated the Ol'Aces in regulation.

The damage came off three hits, four walks and a bean ball. They loaded the bases with a pair of leadoff singles and a walk that set up an RBI hit-by-pitch, two RBI walks, and an RBI single by Bradley Camacho.

The Ol'Aces sifted out a run in the top of the second inning, but the Braves got it right back in the bottom side and went on to add another run in the fourth inning before containing the Ol'Aces to one run in the final stand.

The Braves cracked seven hits in the game, while winning pitcher Noel Cabrera gave up just one run in five innings with nine strikeouts and a hit batsmen. He also picked up two RBIs, while Camacho hit a homerun and logged a base on balls.

Tyrece Camacho turned in a solid performance for the Ol'Aces' even though his crew came out on the short end. He logged two hits with an RBI and a stolen base.

McDonald's 21, Twins 4

McDonald's sweated out a 5-4 lead after the first inning and ventured ahead, 9-4, in the ensuing frame before tossing on a nine-run chunk in the third inning to seal the deal.

The Twins' offense disappeared after finding early success, but it was really a defensive meltdown that led to their demise. As Matuis committed nine errors to assist their opponents into victory lane, as McDonald's rung up over 20 runs off just eight hits.

McDonald's Jaydon Tenorio busted three hits for two RBIs and a hit-by-pitch, Spencer Dickinson connected with two hits for two RBIs, and Jared Reyes belted a triple to go with three bases on balls and two RBIs.

Survivors 8, IT&E 6

The Survivors benefited from an early 4-0 lead established in the first inning and went on to hold off a late six-run charge by IT&E.

The Survivors boarded thir first two batters off a walk and an error to set up pair of RBI fielder's choices by Neldrey Skerel and Theo Laniyo. Laniyo then made it home off an outfield blunder that also enabled Glenn Taro to trek all the way to third base. Taro later stole the dish before IT&E could stop the bleeding.

The Survivors added a run in the second and third inning and moseyed ahead, 8-0, in the fourth inning. However they were not quite out of the woods, as IT&E roared back in the last two innings. IT&E mustered two runs in the fifth inning and managed to post a respectable result with a four-run rally in the final stand, but the Survivors hung on for the win.

IT&E and the Survivors logged three hits apiece, but the latter committed only a pair of defensive errors, one less than their rivals.

Winning pitcher Skerel threw darts and played a big role in the win. He strung up 11 strikeouts with three groundouts through 4 and 2/3 innings and also bagged an RBI, matching Taro and Trent Ngiraikelaus' feats. Laniyo added two RBIs and a hit, while Larsong Sibetong stole two bases. Jacinto Cruz logged two hits and three RBIs for IT&E.

BREWERS

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reeling D-9ers (0-8), 12-5, on March 25.

Brewers 18, Fielders 3

The Brewers hit the ground running and whipped up a quick 3-0 lead in the first inning off a couple of leadoff errors that set up a 2-RBI triple for Jun Rabauliman. He was later singled in by Mike Iguel.

The Brewers added another run in the second exchange off a trio of hits, which included an RBI base rip by Jared Sablan. Then they pulled away, 9-0, in the third inning off four hits. Three runs were scored off errors before Rabauliman cracked another 2-RBI triple, as the Fielders could not retaliate.

The Brewers trudged further ahead, 12-0, in the top of the fifth inning off four more hits, which this time included an RBI double for Rabauliman, who must have eaten his Wheaties before coming to the ball park to put out an impressive game.

The Fielders finally hit the board in the bottom frame and managed to bring around a couple runs off two hits and two wild pitches. However, the Brewers immediately got them back and then added some more in the top of the sixth inning, as they barreled in front, 18-2, off a slew of six hits, including an RBI single for Rabauliman and a 2-RBI base knock by Manny Sablan.

IT&E's final run came in the bottom portion, as Ricardo Dela Cruz and Cadez Tenorio hooked up with a couple of hits, scoring the former.

With the run-rule in effect early on, Mike Taitano relieved starter Tom Camacho at the start of the fifth inning and though the Fielders touched the latter during his first two shifts, the Brewers closer managed to prevent IT&E from passing second base in the final stand. Camacho bagged the win, giving up two hits and a couple hit batsman with three strikeouts through four scoreless innings.

Rabauliman batted 4-for-6 for six RBIs and three runs. The Fielders' Dela Cruz and Tenorio both went 2-for-3.

Brewers 11, Yankees 5

The Northern Yankees got off to a strong start and manufactured a 4-0 lead out of the gate off two hits, two errors, and a fielder's choice. Brian Camacho and Robert Bansil each picked up an RBI in the mix, the former via a base hit.

The Brewers countered shortly after and squared the match at 4s in the third inning off five hits, two errors, and a fielder's choice. Mike Iguel delivered an RBI single and the other three runs came off errors. The Brewers then nosed in front, 7-4, in the fourth inning off three hits, including a 2-RBI triple by Nokki Saralu and an RBI base shot by Manny Sablan.

Both teams added a run in the fifth inning, but the Brewers went on to add three insurance runs in the seventh inning off two hits, a sacrifice bunt by Ton Guerrero, and a sacrifice fly by Mike Taitano to create more distance. Jun Rabauliman also belted a triple and scored off an error in the exchange.

The Yankees were stuffed, three-up and three-down, in the bottom side and stranded runners on the corners in the eighth inning before wilting in the final stand, 1-2-3. The Yankees were held to just five hits and tallied nine strikeouts, coupled with 11 put outs courtesy of winning pitcher Vince Cepeda, who went the distance, giving up one earned run, three walks, and a hit-by-pitch.

Brewers' Guerrero batted 2-for-2 for two RBIs, a run, two sacrifice flies, and a stolen base, while Saralu swung 2-for-4 for two RBIs, two runs, and a base on balls. The Yankees' Brian Camacho batted 3-for-4 for a RBI and a run.

Angels 12, D-9ers 5

The Angels took a 4-1 lead in the third inning off a pair of leadoff walks that set up RBI singles for Kevin Villagomez and Nunu Kapileo. The other two runs were snuck in off errors.

The D-9ers answered in the bottom frame and pulled within a run off two hits, an error, and a sacrifice fly by Lawrence Dikito. They then briefly tied it at 4-all in the fifth inning off a dropped third strike and an error at the backstop. However, the Angels forged ahead, 7-4, in the top of the sixth inning off two hits and a RBI fielder's choice by John Reyes. Peter Lieto also bagged an RBI double, while Villagomez made an RBI single.

The Angels continued to roll and added two more runs in the seventh inning off one hit, a wild pitch, and a sac-fly by Jon Tenorio. Then Villagomez and Ben Taisacan hooked up with a pair of base smashes for another run in the eighth inning and St. Michael's added two more in the top of the ninth off an error and an RBI single by Reyes. The D-9ers could only eke out one run in the final stand.

Winning pitcher Bill Camacho gave up four runs, one earned, off eight hits through six innings with one strikeout.

Villagomez batted 3-for-5 for two RBIs, three runs, three stolen bases, and a base on balls.

CREATION

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Under White's proposal, which should be included in NMASA's Bylaws when approved, the commission must be composed of at least three athletes, but no more than seven. Athletes selected to the commission should also be registered members of a national sports federation, which also must be a NMASA member in good standing.

Election of the members of the Athletes' Commission should be held annually or every December and votes will come from athletes who are members of national federations. The inaugural election will be conducted by NMASA's general secretary (baseball's Rose Igitol).

Once elected, the commission is required to meet annually or every December. The group must also have its own bylaws, which should be consistent with the NMASA Articles and Bylaws. The Athletes' Commission should also have one representative to the NMASA board.

Currently, NMASA has nine board members with White leading the list and is joined by canoe's Gil Birnbrich, football's Ed Salas, golf's Jordon Kosam and Jess Wabol, baseball's Tony Rogolifoi and Igitol, tennis' Jeff Race, and volunteer Emelinda Cabrera.

The board members are expected to discuss details about the election process for the Athletes' Commission once the proposal for the establishment of the new group is approved.

Meanwhile, NMASA's April meeting is set for 7pm tonight at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Docomo Spring Break Caging U17 Finals

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rainbow Supply players and coach Joe Diaz, left, pose for a group photo before facing Proa in the U17 finals of the 2013 Docomo Spring Break Basketball Tournament last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. Rainbow Supply won, 42-39.

League coordinator James Lee, fourth from left, gives final reminders to players, coaches, and officials at center court.

Players and coaches of Proa pose with the banners of the league's sponsors Docomo Pacific and Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

Middle left,Rainbow Supply's Kobee Mendoza pulls up for a long jumper against a Proa defender.

Left, a Proa player tries to keep the ball away from a Rainbow Supply defender.

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Sports

Lakers hang Shaq's No. 34 jersey in the rafters
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11 records fall in Invitational meet

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tsunami Saipan's Miku Tammy does the butterfly stroke in the 200m individual medley race of last month's 2013 SSC International Invitational Swim Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Three Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan bets crushed age group records during the 2013 Saipan Swim Club International Invitational Swim Meet held late last month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Leading Tsunami Saipan's record splash was Miku Tammy, who made six new marks in the girls 9 to 10 division. Her teammates—Kaito Yanai and Kensuke Kimura—earned three and two records in the boys 13 to 14 and 15 to 16 age groups, respectively.

Tammy first reset the record in the 200m freestyle, clocking in at 2:24.96 in the March 23 race, about 10 seconds faster than the previous mark (2:34.86), which she incidentally owned and posted on April 13, 2012. The 50m butterfly mark was next to fall with the Tsunami Saipan bet submitting 33.04 seconds, eclipsing her own record (33.16) logged on Jan. 12, 2013. In another sprint race, the 50m backstroke, Tammy tallied

See 11 on Page 26

Favored teams prevail in Major division

BY WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

There were no upsets in last week's Major division games in the Saipan Little League Baseball, as the latest results illustrated firm wins for a number of favored squads.

On Saturday, the top-ranked Talaabwogh Stars Association Falcons (8-1) rebounded from their first loss of the season by skunking the Joeten Motors' Kagman Ford Rangers (0-8), 23-0; the Natibu Sports Association Braves (6-2) recorded a solid 7-2 victory over Mark Sablan's "Go See Mark" Ol'Aces (5-3); and Laolao Bay Golf Resort (6-2) defeated the Juan Santiago Jets (1-7), 10-4.

In other results, McDonald's of Saipan (5-2) pummeled Rep. Christopher D. Leon Guerrero's As Matuis Twins (1-7), 21-4 last Thursday, and the Dial Rent-To Own/Martha's Store Survivors (2-6) outlasted IT&E (1-7), 8-6, last March 26.

Other standings include the Comets I (6-1), the Pinnacle Staffing Rockies (6-2), the Junior Police Officers Program Enforcers (4-4), the Attorney Robert T. Torres' Kagman Little Legals (4-4), Bank of Saipan Red Sox (3-4), and Attorney Vince Torres' Comets II (5-3).

Laolao 10, Jets 4

Laolao Bay jumped on top, 4-0, in the opening

See FAVORED on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
A "Go See Mark" Ol'Aces player slides safely under the tag at second base in a bang-bang play against the Natibu Sports Association Braves during their Major division game in the SLLB last week at Miguel "Ta Ge" Basa-Pangelinan Field.

Brewers notch twin wins in Saipan Major League

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Tan Holdings Brewers' Jun Rabauliman eyes an incoming pitch from the IT&E Fielders during their game in the SML last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Field.

BY WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Tan Holdings Brewers moved into second place in the team standings after earning a pair of wins in the Saipan Major League Baseball Association's 2013 regular season games at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Field.

The Brew-crew improved its record to 6-2 after handing top-ranked and defending champion Saipan Stevedore Company Northern Yankees (6-1) their first defeat, 11-5, on March 27, and torching the IT&E Fielders (5-3), 18-3, last Monday.

In other results, the St. Michael's Medical Response Angels (2-5) overwhelmed the

See BREWERS on Page 26

Creation of Athletes' Commission sought

BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association is proposing the establishment of an Athletes' Commission to keep its membership to the Oceania National Olympic Committee and promote the interests of CNMI athletes.

White

"Attached you will find a proposal which I will ask the membership to consider at the meeting. It relates to the establishment of an Athletes' Commission, which is something that ONOC wants us to do as a condition of our associate membership. The IOC itself has such a commission, and requires all of its full members to establish one," NMASA president Michael White wrote to the group's members attending the monthly membership meeting tonight.

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